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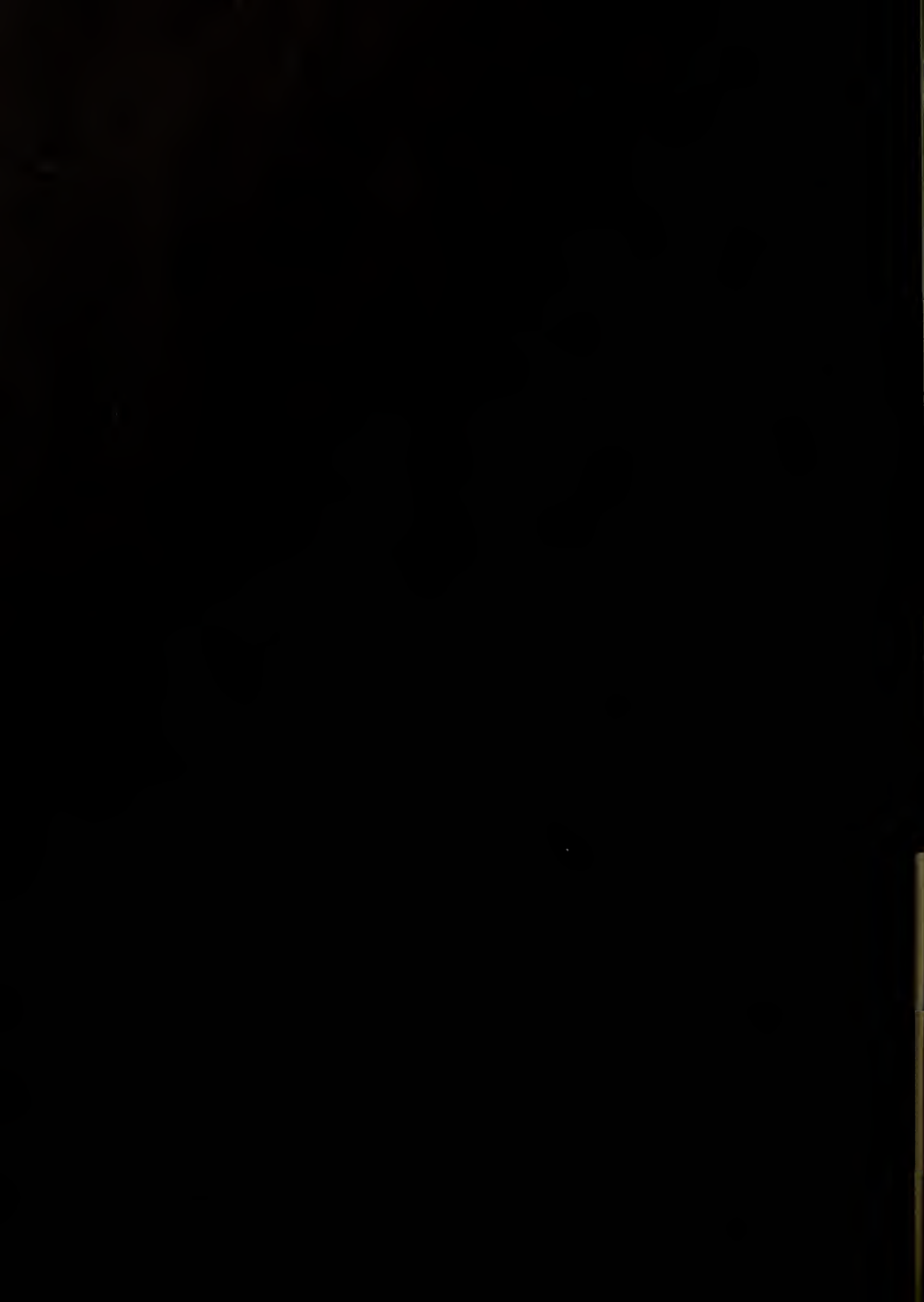
William Holgate.





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ALL ^{FOR} LOVE:

OR, THE

World well Lost.

A

TRAGEDY,

As it is Acted at the

T H E A T R E - R O Y A L ;

And Written in Imitation of *Shakespeare's* Stile.

By *John Dryden*, Servant to His Majesty.

Facile est verbum aliquod ardens (ut ita dicam) notare : idque restinctis animorum incendiis irridere. Cicero.

In the SAVOY:

Printed by *Tho. Newcomb*, for *Henry Herringman*, at the Blew Anchor in the Lower Walk of the *New-Exchange*. 1678.

ALL FOR LOVE:

OR THE

World in Love

A

TRAGEDY

IN FIVE ACTS

BY

ANDREW MARSHALL

As performed at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, on the 17th of February 1733.

LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. DODD, in Pall Mall, 1733.

Printed by J. DODD, in Pall Mall, 1733.

To the Right Honourable,

THOMAS Earl of *Danby*, Viscount *Latimer*,
and Baron *OSBORNE* of *Kiveton* in *York-*
shire, Lord High Treasurer of *England*, One
of His Majesties most Honourable Privy-
Council, and Knight of the Most Noble Or-
der of the Garter, &c.

My LORD,



HE Gratitude of Poets is so troublesome
a Virtue to Great Men, that you are of-
ten in danger of your own Benefits: for
you are threaten'd with some Epistle, and
not suffer'd to do good in quiet, or to
compound for their silence whom you
have oblig'd. Yet, I confess, I nei-
ther am nor ought to be surpriz'd at this Indulgence: for
your Lordship has the same right to favour Poetry which the
Great and Noble have ever had.

Carmen amat, quisquis carmine digna gerit.

There is somewhat of a tye in Nature betwixt those who
are born for Worthy Actions, and those who can transmit
them to Posterity: And though ours be much the inferiour

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part, it comes at least within the Verge of Alliance; nor are we unprofitable Members of the Commonwealth, when we animate others to those Virtues, which we copy and describe from you.

'Tis indeed their Interest, who endeavour the Subversion of Governments, to discourage Poets and Historians; for the best which can happen to them is to be forgotten: But such who, under **KINGS**, are the Fathers of their Country, and by a just and prudent ordering of affairs preserve it, have the same reason to cherish the Chroniclers of their Actions, as they have to lay up in safety the Deeds and Evidences of their Estates: For such Records are their undoubted Titles to the love and reverence of After-Ages. Your Lordships Administration has already taken up a considerable part of the English Annals; and many of its most happy years are owing to it. His **MAJESTY**, the most knowing Judge of Men, and the best Master, has acknowledg'd the Ease and Benefit he receives in the Incomes of His Treasury, which You found not only disorder'd, but exhausted. All things were in the confusion of a Chaos, without Form or Method, if not reduc'd beyond it, even to Annihilation: so that you had not only to separate the Jarring Elements, but (if that boldness of expression might be allow'd me) to Create them. Your Enemies had so embroy'd the management of your Office, that they look'd on your Advancement as the Instrument of your Ruine. And as if the clogging of the Revenue, and the Confusion of Accounts, which you found in your entrance, were not sufficient, they added their own weight of malice to the Publick Calamity, by forestalling the Credit which shou'd cure it: your Friends on the other side were only capable of pitying, but not of aiding you: No
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farther help or counsel was remaining to you, but what was founded on your Self: and that indeed was your Security: For your Diligence, your Constancy, and your Prudence, wrought more surely within, when they were not disturb'd by any outward Motion. The highest Virtue is best to be trusted with it Self, for Assistance only can be given by a Genius Superiour to that which it assists. And 'tis the Noblest kind of Debt, when we are only oblig'd to God and Nature. This then, My Lord, is your just Commendation, That you have wrought out your Self a way to Glory, by those very Means that were design'd for your Destruction: You have not only restor'd, but advanc'd the Revenues of your Master without grievance to the Subject: and as if that were little yet, the Debts of the Exchequer, which lay heaviest both on the Crown, and on Private Persons, have by your Conduct been establish'd in a certainty of satisfaction. An Action so much the more Great and Honourable, because the case was without the ordinary relief of Laws; above the Hopes of the Afflicted, and beyond the Narrowness of the Treasury to redress, had it been manag'd by a less able Hand. 'Tis certainly the happiest, and most unenvy'd part of all your Fortune, to do good to many, while you do injury to none: to receive at once the Prayers of the Subject, and the Praises of the Prince: and by the care of your Conduct, to give Him Means of exerting the chiefest, (if any be the chiefest) of His Royal Virtues, His Distributive Justice to the Deserving, and his Bounty and Compassion to the Wanting. The Disposition of Princes towards their People, cannot better be discover'd than in the choice of their Ministers: who, like the Animal Spirits betwixt the Soul and Body, participate somewhat of both Natures, and make the Communication which is betwixt them. A King,

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who is just and moderate in his Nature, who Rules according to the Laws, whom God made happy by forming the Temper of his Soul to the Constitution of his Government, and who makes us happy, by assuming over us no other Sovereignty than that wherein our Welfare and Liberty consists; a Prince, I say, of so excellent a Character, and so suitable to the Wishes of all Good Men, could not better have convey'd Himself into his Peoples Apprehensions, than in your Lordships Person: who so lively express the same Virtues, that you seem not so much a Copy, as an Emanation of Him. Moderation is doubtless an Establishment of Greatness; but there is a steadiness of temper which is likewise requisite in a Minister of State: so equal a mixture of both Virtues, that he may stand like an Isthmus betwixt the two encroaching Seas of Arbitrary Power; and Lawless Anarchy. The Undertaking would be difficult to any but an extraordinary Genius, to stand at the Line, and to divide the Limits; to pay what is due to the Great Representative of the Nation, and neither to inhance, nor to yeild up the undoubted Prerogatives of the Crown. These, My Lord, are the proper Virtues of a Noble Englishman, as indeed they are properly English Virtues: No People in the World being capable of using them, but we who have the happiness to be born under so equal, and so well pois'd a Government. A Government which has all the Advantages of Liberty beyond a Commonwealth, and all the Marks of Kingly Sovereignty without the danger of a Tyranny. Both my Nature, as I am an Englishman, and my Reason, as I am a Man, have bred in me a loathing to that specious Name of a Republick: that mock-appearance of a Liberty, where all who have not part in the Government; are Slaves: and Slaves they are of a viler note than such as are Subjects to an absolute Dominion.

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minion. For no Christian Monarchy is so absolute, but 'tis circumscrib'd with Laws: But when the Executive Power is in the Law-makers, there is no farther check upon them; and the People must suffer without a remedy, because they are oppress'd by their Representatives. If I must serve, the number of my Masters, who were born my Equals, would but add to the ignominy of my Bondage. The Nature of our Government above all others, is exactly suited both to the Situation of our Country, and the Temper of the Natives: An Island being more proper for Commerce and for Defence, than for extending its Dominions on the Continent: for what the Valour of its Inhabitants might gain, by reason of its remoteness, and the casualties of the Seas, it cou'd not so easily preserve: and therefore, neither the Arbitrary Power of one in a Monarchy, nor of many in a Commonwealth, could make us greater than we are. 'Tis true, that waster and more frequent Taxes might be gather'd, when the consent of the People was not ask'd or needed, but this were only by Conquering abroad to be poor at home: And the Examples of our Neighbours teach us, that they are not always the happiest Subjects whose Kings extend their Dominions farthest. Since therefore we cannot win by an Offensive War, at least a Land-War, the Model of our Government seems naturally contriv'd for the Defensivè part: and the consent of a People is easily obtain'd to contribute to that Power which must protect it. Felices nimium bona si sua nôrint, Angligenæ! And yet there are not wanting Malecontents amongst us, who surfeiting themselves on too much happiness, wou'd persuade the People that they might be happier by a change. 'Twas indeed the policy of their old Forefather, when himself was fallen from the station of Glory, to seduce Mankind into the same Rebellion with him, by telling him he might

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might yet be freer than he was : that is, more free than his Nature wou'd allow, or (if I may so say) than God cou'd make him. We have already all the Liberty which Free-born Subjects can enjoy ; and all beyond it is but License. But if it be Liberty of Conscience which they pretend, the Moderation of our Church is such, that its practice extends not to the severity of Persecution, and its Discipline is withal so easie, that it allows more freedom to Dissenters than any of the Sects wou'd allow to it. In the mean time, what right can be pretended by these Men to attempt Innovations in Church or State ? Who made them the Trustees, or (to speak a little nearer their own Language) the Keepers of the Liberty of England ? If their Call be extraordinary, let them convince us by working Miracles ; for ordinary Vocation they can have none to disturb the Government under which they were born, and which protects them. He who has often chang'd his Party, and always has made his Interest the Rule of it, gives little evidence of his sincerity for the Publick Good : 'Tis manifest he changes but for himself, and takes the People for Tools to work his Fortune. Yet the experience of all Ages might let him know, that they who trouble the Waters first ; have seldom the benefit of the Fishing : As they who began the late Rebellion, enjoy'd not the fruit of their undertaking, but were crush'd themselves by the Usurpation of their own Instrument. Neither is it enough for them to answer that they only intend a Reformation of the Government, but not the Subversion of it : On such pretences all Insurrections have been founded : 'Tis striking at the Root of Power, which is Obedience. Every Remonstrance of private Men, has the seed of Treason in it ; and Discourses which are couch'd in ambiguous Terms, are therefore the more dangerous, because they do all
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the Mischief of open sedition, yet are safe from the punishment of the Laws. These, My Lord, are Considerations which I should not pass so lightly over, had I room to manage them as they deserve: for no Man can be so inconsiderable in a Nation, as not to have a share in the welfare of it; and if he be a true Englishman, he must at the same time be fir'd with Indignation, and revenge himself as he can on the Disturbers of his Country. And to whom could I more fitly apply myself, than to your Lordship, who have not only an inborn, but an hereditary Loyalty? The memorable constancy and sufferings of your Father, almost to the ruine of his Estate for the Royal Cause, were an earnest of that, which such a Parent and such an Institution would produce in the Person of a Son. But so unhappy an occasion of manifesting your own Zeal in suffering for his present MAJESTY, the Providence of God, and the Prudence of your Administration, will, I hope, prevent. That as your Fathers Fortune waited on the unhappiness of his Sovereign, so your own may participate of the better Fate which attends his Son. The Relation which you have by Alliance to the Noble Family of your Lady, serves to confirm to you both this happy Augury. For what can deserve a greater place in the English Chronicle, than the Loyalty and Courage, the Actions and Death of the General of an Army Fighting for His Prince and Country? The Honour and Gallantry of the Earl of Lindsey, is so illustrious a Subject, that 'tis fit to adorn an Heroique Poem; for He was the Proto-Martyr of the Cause, and the Type of his unfortunate Royal Master.

Yet, after all, My Lord, if I may speak my thoughts, you are happy rather to us than to your self: for the Multiplicity, the Cares, and the Vexations of your Employment, have betray'd you from your self, and given you up into
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the Possession of the Publick. You are Robb'd of your Privacy and Friends, and scarce any hour of your Life you can call your own. Those who envy your Fortune, if they wanted not good Nature, might more justly pity it; and when they see you watch'd by a Croud of Suitors, whose importunity 'tis impossible to avoid, would conclude with Reason, that you have lost much more in true content, than you have gain'd by Dignity; and that a private Gentleman is better attended by a single Servant, than your Lordship with so clamorous a Train. Pardon me, My Lord, If I speak like a Philosopher on this Subject; the Fortune which makes a Man uneasie, cannot make him happy: and a Wise Man must think himself uneasie, when few of his Actions are in his choice.

This last Consideration has brought me to another, and a very seasonable one for your relief; which is, That while I pity your want of leisure, I have impertinently Detain'd you so long a time. I have put off my own Business, which was my Dedication, till 'tis so late, that I am now asham'd to begin it: And therefore I will say nothing of the Poem, which I Present to you, because I know not if you are like to have an Hour, which, with a good Conscience, you may throw away in perusing it: And for the Author, I have only to beg the continuance of your Protection to him, who is,

MY LORD,

Your Lordships, most Oblig'd,

most Humble, and most

Obedient Servant,

JOHN DRYDEN.

Preface.

THe death of *Anthony* and *Cleopatra*, is a Subject which has been treated by the greatest Wits of our Nation, after *Shakespeare*; and by all so variously, that their example has given me the confidence to try my self in this Bowe of *Ulysses* amongst the Crowd of Sutors; and, withal, to take my own measures, in aiming at the Mark. I doubt not but the same Motive has prevailed with all of us in this attempt; I mean the excellency of the Moral: for the chief persons represented, were famous patterns of unlawful love; and their end accordingly was unfortunate. All reasonable men have long since concluded, That the Heroe of the Poem, ought not to be a character of perfect Virtue, for, then, he could not, without injustice, be made unhappy; nor yet altogether wicked, because he could not then be pitied: I have therefore steer'd the middle course; and have drawn the character of *Anthony* as favourably as *Plutarch*, *Appian*, and *Dion Cassius* wou'd give me leave: the like I have observ'd in *Cleopatra*. That which is wanting to work up the pity to a greater heighth, was not afforded me by the story: for the crimes of love which they both committed, were not occasion'd by any necessity, or fatal ignorance, but were wholly voluntary; since our passions are, or ought to be, within our power. The Fabrick of the Play is regular enough, as to the inferior parts of it; and the Unities of Time, Place and Action, more exactly observ'd, than, perhaps, the English Theater requires. Particularly, the Action is so much one, that it is the only of the kind without Episode, or Underplot; every Scene in the Tragedy conducing to the main design, and every Act concluding with a turn of it. The greatest error in the contrivance seems to be in the person of *Octavia*: For, though I might use the priviledge of a Poet, to introduce her into *Alexandria*, yet I had not enough consider'd, that the compassion she mov'd to her self and children, was destructive to that which I reserv'd for *Anthony* and *Cleopatra*; whose mutual love being founded upon vice, must

lessen the favour of the Audience to them, when Virtue and Innocence were oppress'd by it. And, though I justified *Anthony* in some measure, by making *Octavia's* departure, to proceed wholly from her self; yet the force of the first Machine still remain'd; and the dividing of pity, like the cutting of a River into many Channels, abated the strength of the natural stream. But this is an Objection which none of my Critiques have urg'd against me; and therefore I might have let it pass, if I could have resolv'd to have been partial to my self. The faults my Enemies have found, are rather cavils concerning little, and not essential Decencies; which a Master of the Ceremonies may decide betwixt us. The *French Poets*, I confess, are strict Observers of these Punctilio's: They would not, for example, have suffer'd *Cleopatra* and *Octavia* to have met; or if they had met, there must only have pass'd betwixt them some cold civilities, but no eagerness of repartée, for fear of offending against the greatness of their Characters, and the modesty of their Sex. This Objection I foresaw, and at the same time contemn'd: for I judg'd it both natural and probable, that *Octavia*, proud of her new-gain'd Conquest, would search out *Cleopatra* to triumph over her; and that *Cleopatra*, thus attack'd, was not of a spirit to shun the encounter: and 'tis not unlikely, that two exasperated Rivals should use such Satyre as I have put into their mouths; for after all, though the one were a *Roman*, and the other a *Queen*, they were both Women. 'Tis true, some actions, though natural, are not fit to be represented; and broad obscenities in words, ought in good manners to be avoided: expressions therefore are a modest cloathing of our thoughts, as Breeches and Petticoats are of our bodies. If I have kept my self within the bounds of modesty, all beyond it is but nicety and affectation; which is no more but modesty deprav'd into a vice: they betray themselves who are too quick of apprehension in such cases, and leave all reasonable men to imagine worse of them, than of the Poet.

Honest *Montaigne* goes yet farther: *Nous ne sommes que ceremonie; la ceremonie nous emporte, & laissons la substance des choses: Nous nous tenons aux branches, & abandonnons le tronc & le corps. Nous avons appris aux Dames de rougir, oyans seulement nommer ce qu'elles ne craignent aucunement a faire: Nous n'osons appeller a droit nos membres, & ne craignons pas de les employer a toute sorte de debauches.*

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bauche. La ceremonie nous defend d'exprimer par paroles les choses licites & naturelles, & nous l'en croyons; la raison nous defend de n'en faire point d'illicites & mauvaises, & personne ne l'en croit. My comfort is, that by this opinion my Enemies are but sucking Critiques; who wou'd fain be nibbling ere their teeth are come.

Yet, in this nicety of manners does the excellency of *French Poetry* consist: their Heroes are the most civil people breathing; but their good breeding seldom extends to a word of sense: All their Wit is in their Ceremony; they want the Genius which animates our Stage; and therefore 'tis but necessary when they cannot please, that they should take care not to offend. But, as the civilest man in the company is commonly the dullest, so these Authors, while they are afraid to make you laugh or cry, out of pure good manners, make you sleep. They are so careful not to exasperate a Critique, that they never leave him any work; so busie with the Broom, and make so clean a riddance, that there is little left either for censure or for praise: for no part of a Poem is worth our discommending, where the whole is insipid; as when we have once tasted of pall'd Wine, we stay not to examine it Glas by Glas. But while they affect to shine in trifles, they are often careless in essentials. Thus their *Hippolitus* is so scrupulous in point of decency, that he will rather expose himself to death, than accuse his Stepmother to his Father; and my Critiques I am sure will commend him for it: but we of grosser apprehensions, are apt to think that this excess of generosity, is not practicable but with Fools and Madmen. This was good manners with a vengeance; and the Audience is like to be much concern'd at the misfortunes of this admirable Heroe: but take *Hippolitus* out of his Poetique Fit, and I suppose he would think it a wiser part, to set the Saddle on the right Horse, and chuse rather to live with the reputation of a plain-spoken honest man, than to die with the infamy of an incestuous Villain. In the mean time we may take notice, that where the Poet ought to have preserv'd the character as it was deliver'd to us by Antiquity, when he should have given us the picture of a rough young man, of the *Amazonian* strain, a jolly Huntsman, and both by his profession and his early rising a Mortal Enemy to love, he has chosen to give him the turn of Gallantry, sent him to travel from *Athens* to *Paris*, taught him to make love, and transform'd the *Hippolitus* of *Euripides*

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into Monsieur *Hippolite*. I should not have troubled my self thus far with French Poets, but that I find our *Chedreux* Critiques wholly form their judgments by them. But for my part, I desire to be try'd by the Laws of my own Country; for it seems unjust to me, that the French should prescribe here, till they have conquer'd. Our little Sonnetiers who follow them, have too narrow Souls to judge of Poetry. Poets themselves are the most proper, though I conclude not the only Critiques. But till some Genius as Universal, as *Aristotle*, shall arise, one who can penetrate into all Arts and Sciences, without the practice of them, I shall think it reasonable, that the Judgment of an Artificer in his own Art should be preferable to the opinion of another man; at least where he is not brib'd by interest, or prejudic'd by malice: and this, I suppose, is manifest by plain induction: For, first, the Crowd cannot be presum'd to have more than a gross instinct, of what pleases or displeases them: every man will grant me this; but then, by a particular kindness to himself, he draws his own stake first, and will be distinguish'd from the multitude, of which other men may think him one. But, if I come closer to those who are allow'd for witty men, either by the advantage of their quality, or by common fame, and affirm that neither are they qualified to decide Sovereignly, concerning Poetry, I shall yet have a strong party of my opinion; for most of them severally will exclude the rest, either from the number of witty men, or at least of able Judges. But here again they are all indulgent to themselves: and every one who believes himself a Wit, that is, every man, will pretend at the same time to a right of judging. But to press it yet farther, there are many witty men, but few Poets; neither have all Poets a taste of Tragedy. And this is the Rock on which they are daily splitting. Poetry, which is a Picture of Nature, must generally please: but 'tis not to be understood that all parts of it must please every man; therefore is not Tragedy to be judg'd by a witty man, whose taste is only confin'd to Comedy. Nor is every man who loves Tragedy a sufficient Judge of it: he must understand the excellencies of it too, or he will only prove a blind Admirer, not a Critique. From hence it comes that so many Satyrs on Poets, and censures of their Writings, fly abroad. Men of pleasant Conversation, (at least esteem'd so) and indu'd with a trifling kind of Fancy, perhaps help'd out with some smattering

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ing of Latine, are ambitious to distinguish themselves from the Herd of Gentlemen, by their Poetry ;

*Rarus enim fermè sensus communis in illâ
Fortunâ.*

And is not this a wretched affectation, not to be contented with what Fortune has done for them, and sit down quietly with their Estates, but they must call their Wits in question, and needlessly expose their nakedness to publick view? Not considering that they are not to expect the same approbation from sober men, which they have found from their flatterers after the third Bottle? If a little glittering in discourse has pass'd them on us for witty men, where was the necessity of undeceiving the World? would a man who has an ill Title to an Estate, but yet is in possession of it, would he bring it of his own accord, to be try'd at *Westminster*? We who write, if we want the Talent, yet have the excuse that we do it for a poor subsistence; but what can be urg'd in their defence, who not having the Vocation of Poverty to scribble out of meer wantonness, take pains to make themselves ridiculous? *Horace* was certainly in the right, where he said, That *no man is satisfied with his own condition*. A Poet is not pleas'd because he is not rich; and the Rich are discontented, because the Poets will not admit them of their number. Thus the case is hard with Writers: if they succeed not, they must starve; and if they do, some malicious Satyr is prepar'd to level them for daring to please without their leave. But while they are so eager to destroy the fame of others, their ambition is manifest in their concernment: some Poem of their own is to be produc'd, and the Slaves are to be laid flat with their faces on the ground, that the Monarch may appear in the greater Majesty.

Dionysius and *Nero* had the same longings, but with all their power they cou'd never bring their business well about. 'Tis true, they proclaim'd themselves Poets by sound of Trumpet; and Poets they were upon pain of death to any man who durst call them otherwise. The Audience had a fine time on't, you may imagine; they sate in a bodily fear, and look'd as demurely as they could: for 'twas a hanging matter to laugh unseasonably; and the Tyrants were suspicious, as they had reason, that their Subjects had 'em in the wind: so, every man in his own defence set

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as good a face upon the business as he could: 'Twas known beforehand that the Monarchs were to be Crown'd Laureats; but when the shew was over, and an honest man was suffer'd to depart quietly, he took out his laughter which he had stifled; with a firm resolution never more to see an Emperor's Play, though he had been ten years a making it. In the mean time the true Poets were they who made the best Markets, for they had Wit enough to yield the Prize with a good grace, and not contend with him who had thirty Legions: They were sure to be rewarded if they confess'd themselves bad Writers, and that was somewhat better than to be Martyrs for their reputation. *Lucan's* example was enough to teach them manners; and after he was put to death, for overcoming *Nero*, the Emperor carried it without dispute for the best Poet in his Dominions: No man was ambitious of that grinning honour; for if he heard the malicious Trumpetter proclaiming his name before his betters, he knew there was but one way with him. *Mecenas* took another course, and we know he was more than a great man, for he was witty too: but finding himself far gone in Poetry, which *Seneca* assures us was not his Talent, he thought it his best way to be well with *Virgil* and with *Horace*; that at least he might be a Poet at the second hand; and we see how happily it has succeeded with him; for his own bad Poetry is forgotten, and their Panegyricks of him still remain. But they who should be our Patrons, are for no such expensive ways to fame: they have much of the Poetry of *Mecenas*, but little of his liberality. They are for persecuting *Horace* and *Virgil*, in the persons of their Successors, (for such is every man, who has any part of their Soul and Fire, though in a lesse degree.) Some of their little *Zanies* yet go farther; for they are Persecutors even of *Horace* himself, as far as they are able, by their ignorant and vile imitations of him; by making an unjust use of his Authority, and turning his Artillery against his Friends. But how would he disdain to be Copyed by such hands! I dare answer for him, he would be more uneasie in their company, than he was with *Crispinus* their Forefather in the *Holy Way*; and would no more have allow'd them a place amongst the Critiques, than he would *Demetrius* the Mimique, and *Tigellius* the Buffoon;

— *Demetri, teq; Tigelli,*
Discipulorum inter jubeo plorare Cathedras.

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With what scorn would he look down on such miserable Translators, who make Doggrel of his Latine, mistake his meaning, misapply his censures, and often contradict their own? He is fix'd as a Land-Mark to set out the bounds of Poetry,

—————*Saxum, antiquum ingens
Limes agro positus litem ut discerneret arvis:*

But other Arms than theirs, and other Sinews are requir'd, to raise the weight of such an Author; and when they would toss him against their Enemies,

*Genua labant, gelidus concrevit frigore sanguis,
Tum lapis ipse, viri vacuum per inane volutus
Nec spatium evasit totum. nec pertulit ictum.*

For my part, I would wish no other revenge, either for my self or the rest of the Poets, from this Rhyming Judge of the Twelve-penny Gallery, this Legitimate Son of *Sternhold*, than that he would subscribe his Name to his censure, or (not to tax him beyond his learning) set his Mark: for shou'd he own himself publickly; and come from behind the Lyons Skin, they whom he condemns wou'd be thankful to him, they whom he praises wou'd chuse to be condemned; and the Magistrates whom he has elected, wou'd modestly withdraw from their employment, to avoid the scandal of his nomination. The sharpness of his Satyr, next to himself, falls most heavily on his Friends, and they ought never to forgive him for commending them perpetually the wrong way, and sometimes by contraries. If he have a Friend whose hastiness in writing is his greatest fault, *Horace* wou'd have taught him to have minc'd the matter, and to have call'd it readines of thought, and a flowing fancy; for friendship will allow a man to Christen an imperfection by the name of some neighbour virtue:

*Vellem in amicitia sic erraremus; & isti
Errori, nomen virtus posuisset honestum.*

But he would never have allow'd him to have call'd a slow man hasty, or a hasty Writer a slow Drudge, as *Juvenal* explains it:

—————*Canibus pigris, scabieq; vetusta
Levibus, & sicca lambentibus ora lucernæ
Nomen erit, Pardus, Tygris, Leo; si quid adhuc est
Quod fremit in terris violentius.*

Yet *Lucretius* laughs at a foolish Lover, even for excusing the Imperfections of his Mistress:

P R E F A C E.

Nigra μετ' ἄλλοις ἔσται, immunda & fetida ἀνοσμητὸν

Balba loqui non quit, τραυλίσει; vinta pudens est, &c.

But to drive it, *ad Æthiopem Cygnum* is not to be indur'd. I leave him to interpret this by the benefit of his French Version on the other side, and without farther considering him, than I have the rest of my illiterate Censors, whom I have disdain'd to answer, because they are not qualified for Judges. It remains that I acquaint the Reader, that I have endeavour'd in this Play to follow the practise of the Ancients, who, as *Mr. Rymer* has judiciously observ'd, are and ought to be our Masters. *Horace* likewise gives it for a Rule in his Art of Poetry,

————— *Vos exemplaria Græca*

Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ.

Yet, though their Models are regular, they are too little for English Tragedy; which requires to be built in a larger compass. I could give an instance in the *Oedipus Tyrannus*, which was the Masterpiece of *Sophocles*; but I reserve it for a more fit occasion, which I hope to have hereafter. In my Stile I have profess'd to imitate the Divine *Shakespeare*; which that I might perform more freely, I have dis-incumber'd my self from Rhyme. Not that I condemn my former way, but that this is more proper to my present purpose. I hope I need not to explain my self, that I have not Copy'd my Author servilely: Words and Phrases must of necessity receive a change in succeeding Ages: but 'tis almost a Miracle that much of his Language remains so pure; and that he who began Dramatique Poetry amongst us, untaught by any, and, as *Ben Johnson* tells us, without Learning, should by the force of his own Genius perform so much, that in a manner he has left no praise for any who come after him. The occasion is fair, and the subject would be pleasant to handle the difference of Stiles betwixt him and *Fletcher*, and wherein, and how far they are both to be imitated. But since I must not be over-confident of my own performance after him, it will be prudence in me to be silent. Yet I hope I may affirm, and without vanity, that by imitating him, I have excell'd my self throughout the Play; and particularly, that I prefer the Scene betwixt *Anthony* and *Ventidius* in the first Act, to any thing which I have written in this kind.

PROLOGUE to *Anthony and Cleopatra*.

What Flocks of Critiques hover here to day,
As Vultures, wait on Armies for their Prey,
All gaping for the Carcass of a Play!
With Croaking Notes they bode some dire event;
And follow dying Poets by the scent.
Ours gives himself for gone; y^e have watch'd your time!
He fights this day unarm'd; without his Rhyme.
And brings a Tale which often has been told;
As sad as Dido's; and almost as old.
His Heroe, whom you Wits his Bully call,
Bates of his mettle; and scarce rants at all:
He's somewhat lewd; but a well-meaning wind;
Weeps much; fights little; but is wond'rous kind.
In short, a Pattern, and Companion fit,
For all the keeping Tonjes of the Pit.
I cou'd name more; A Wife, and Mistress too;
Both (to be plain) too good for most of you:
The Wise well-natur'd, and the Mistress true.

Now, Poets, if your fame has been his care;
Allow him all the candour you can spare.
A brave Man scorns to quarrel once a day;
Like Hector, in at every petty fray.
Let those find fault whose Wit's so very small,
They've need to show that they can think at all:
Errours like Straws upon the surface flow;
He who would search for Pearls must dive below.
Fops may have leave to level all they can;
As Pigmies wou'd be glad to lopp a Man.
Half-Wits are Fleas; so little and so light;
We scarce cou'd know they live, but that they bite.
But, as the Rich, when tir'd with daily Feasts,
For change, become their next poor Tenants Chests;
Drink hearty Draughts of Ale, from plain brown Bowls,
And snatch the homely Rasher from the Coals:
So you, retiring from much better Cheer,
For once, may venture to do penance here.
And since that plenteous Autumn now is past,
Whose Grapes and Peaches have Indulg'd your taste,
Take in good part from our poor Poets boord,
Such rivell'd Fruits as Winter can afford.

Persons Represented.

Marc Anthony,
Ventidius, his General,
Dollabella, his Friend,
Alexas, the Queens Eunuch,
Serapion, Priest of Isis,
Another Priest,
 Servants to Anthony,
Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt,
Octavia, Anthony's Wife,
Charmion, } Cleopatra's Maids.
Iras, }
Anthony's two little Daughters.

By
Mr. Hart.
Mr. Mohun.
Mr. Clarke.
Mr. Goodman.
Mr. Griffin.
Mr. Coysb.

Mrs. Boutell.
Mrs. Corey.

Scene Alexandria.

ALL for LOVE;

OR, THE

World well Lost.

ACT. I. SCENE, *The Temple of Isis.**Enter Serapion, Myris, Priests of Isis.**Serap.***P**

Ortents, and Prodiges, are grown so frequent,
That they have lost their Name. Our fruitful
Nile

Flow'd ere the wonted Season, with a Torrent
So unexpected, and so wondrous fierce,
That the wild Deluge overtook the haste

Ev'n of the Hinds that watch'd it: Men and Beasts
Were born above the tops of Trees, that grew
On th' utmost Margin of the Water-mark.

Then, with so swift an Ebb, the Floud drove backward

It slipt from underneath the Scaly Herd:

Here monstrous *Phocæ* panted on the Shore;

Forsaken *Dolphins* there, with their broad tails,

Lay lashing the departing Waves: Hard by 'em,

Sea-Horses floundring in the slimy mud,

Toss'd up their heads, and dash'd the ooze about 'em.

Enter Alexas behind them.

Myr. Avert these Omens, Heav'n.

B

Serap.

Serap. Last night, between the hours of Twelve and One,
 In a lone Isle o'th' Temple while I walk'd,
 A Whirl-wind rose, that, with a violent blast,
 Shook all the *Dome*: the Doors around me clapt,
 The Iron Wicket, that defends the Vault,
 Where the long Race of *Ptolomies* is lay'd,
 Burst open, and disclos'd the mighty dead.
 From out each Monument, in order plac'd,
 An Armed Ghost start up: the Boy-King last
 Rear'd his inglorious head. A peal of groans
 Then follow'd, and a lamentable voice
 Cry'd, *Ægypt* is no more. My blood ran back,
 My shaking knees against each other knock'd;
 On the cold pavement down I fell intranc'd,
 And so unfinish'd left the horrid Scene.

*Alexas show- } And, Dream'd you this? or, D'd invent the Story?
 ing himself } To frighten our *Ægyptian* Boys withal,
 And train 'em up betimes in fear of Priesthood?*

Serap. My Lord, I saw you not,
 Nor meant my words should reach your ears; but what
 I utter'd was most true.

Alex. A foolish Dream,
 Bred from the fumes of indigested Feasts,
 And holy Luxury.

Serap. I know my duty:
 This goes no farther.

Alex. 'Tis not fit it should.
 Nor would the times now bear it, were it true.
 All Southern, from yon hills, the *Roman* Camp
 Hangs o'er us black and threatning, like a Storm.
 Just breaking on our heads.

Serap. Our faint *Ægyptians* pray for *Antony*;
 But in their Servile hearts they own *Octavius*.

Myr. Why then does *Antony* dream out his hours,
 And tempts not Fortune for a noble Day,
 Which might redeem, what *Actium* lost?

Alex. He thinks 'tis past recovery.

Serap. Yet the Foe
 Seems not to press the Siege.

Alex. O, there's the wonder.

Mecænas and *Agrippa*, who can most
With *Cæsar*, are his Foes. His Wife *Octavia*,
Driv'n from his House, solicits her revenge;
And *Dolabella*, who was once his Friend,
Upon some private grudge, now seeks his ruine:
Yet still War seems on either side to sleep.

Serap. 'Tis strange that *Antony*, for some dayes past,
Has not beheld the face of *Cleopatra*;
But here, in *Isis* Temple, lives retir'd,
And makes his heart a prey to black despair.

Alex. 'Tis true; and we much fear he hopes by absence
To cure his mind of Love.

Serap. If he be vanquish'd,
Or make his peace, *Ægypt* is doom'd to be
A *Roman* Province; and our plenteous Harvests
Must then redeem the scarceness of their Soil.
While *Antony* stood firm, our *Alexandria*
Rival'd proud *Rome* (Dominions other Seat)
And Fortune striding, like a vast *Colossus*,
Cou'd fix an equal foot of Empire here.

Alex. Had I my wish, these Tyrants of all Nature
Who Lord it o'er Mankind, should perish, perish,
Each by the others Sword; but, since our will
Is lamely follow'd by our pow'r, we must
Depend on one; with him to rise or fall.

Serap. How stands the Queen affected?

Alex. O, she dotes,
She dotes, *Serapion*, on this vanquish'd Man,
And winds her self about his mighty ruins,
Whom would she yet forsake, yet yield him up,
This hunted prey, to his pursuers hands,
She might preserve us all; but 'tis in vain——
This changes my designs, this blasts my Counsels,
And makes me use all means to keep him here,
Whom I could wish divided from her Arms
Far as the Earth's deep Center. Well, you know
The state of things; no more of your ill Omens,
And black Prognosticks; labour to confirm
The peoples hearts.

All for LOVE; or,

Enter Ventidius, talking aside with a Gentleman of Antony's.
Serap. These Romans will o'rebear us.

But, Who's that Stranger? By his Warlike port,
 His fierce demeanor, and erected look,
 He's of no vulgar note.

Alex. O 'tis *Ventidius*,

Our Emp'rors great Lieutenant in the East,
 Who first show'd *Rome* that *Parthia* could be conquer'd.
 When *Antony* return'd from *Syria* last,
 He left this Man to guard the *Roman* Frontiers.

Serap. You seem to know him well.

Alex. Too well. I saw him in *Cilicia* first,

When *Cleopatra* there met *Antony* :

A mortal foe he was to us, and *Agypt*.

But, let me witness to the worth I hate,

A braver Roman never drew a Sword.

Firm to his Prince; but, as a friend, not Slave.

He ne'r was of his pleasures; but presides

O're all his cooler hours and morning counsels:

In short, the plainness, fierceness, rugged virtue

Of an old true-stampt Roman lives in him.

His coming bodes I know not what of ill

To our affairs. Withdraw, to mark him better;

And I'll acquaint you why I sought you here,

And what's our present work.

Ventidius. Not see him, say you?

I say, I must, and will.

Gent. He has commanded,

On pain of death, none should approach his presence.

Ven. I bring him news will raise his drooping Spirits,

Give him new life.

Gent. He sees not *Cleopatra*.

Ven. Would he had never seen her.

Gent. He eats not, drinks not, sleeps not, has no use
 Of any thing, but thought; or, if he talks,

'Tis to himself, and then 'tis perfect raving:

Then he defies the World, and bids it pass;

Sometimes he gnawes his Lip; and Curses loud

The Boy *Octavius*; then he draws his mouth

Into a scornful smile, and cries, Take all,
The World's not worth my care.

Ven. Just, just his nature.

Virtues his path; but sometimes 'tis too narrow
For his vast Soul; and then he starts out wide,
And bounds into a Vice that bears him far
From his first course, and plunges him in ills:
But, when his danger makes him find his fault,
Quick to observe, and full of sharp remorse,
He censures eagerly his own misdeeds,
Judging himself with malice to himself,
And not forgiving what as Man he did,
Because his other parts are more than Man.

He must not thus be lost. [Alexas and the Priests come forward.]

Alex. You have your full Instructions, now advance;
Proclaim your Orders loudly.

Scrap. Romans, Egyptians, hear the Queen's Command.
Thus Cleopatra bids, Let Labor cease,
To Pomp and Triumphs give this happy day,
That gave the World a Lord: 'tis Antony's.
Live, Antony; and Cleopatra live.
Be this the general voice sent up to Heav'n,
And every publick place repeat this eccho.

Ven. aside. Fine Pageantry!

Scrap. Set out before your doors
The Images of all your sleeping Fathers,
With Laurels crown'd; with Laurels wreath your posts,
And strow with Flow'rs the Pavement; Let the Priests
Do present Sacrifice; pour out the Wine,
And call the Gods to joyn with you in gladness.

Ven. Curse on the tongue that bids this general joy.
Can they be friends of Antony, who Revel
When Antony's in danger? Hide, for shame,
You Romans, your Great grandsires Images,
For fear their Souls should animate their Marbles,
To blush at their degenerate Progeny.

Alex. A love which knows no bounds to Antony,
Would mark the Day with honors; when all Heaven
Labor'd for him, when each propitious Star

Stood wakeful in his Orb, to watch that hour,
 And shed his better influence. Her own Birth-day
 Our Queen neglected, like a vulgar Fate,
 That pass'd obscurely by.

Ven. Would it had slept,
 Divided far from his; till some remote
 And future Age had call'd it out, to ruin
 Some other Prince, not him.

Alex. Your Emperor,
 Tho grown unkind, would be more gentle, than
 T'upbraid my Queen, for loving him too well.

Ven. Does the mute Sacrifice upbraid the Priest?
 He knows him not his Executioner.

O, she has deck'd his ruin with her love,
 Led him in golden bands to gaudy slaughter,
 And made perdition pleasing: She has left him
 The blank of what he was;

I tell thee, Eunuch, she has quite unman'd him:

Can any Roman see, and know him now,
 Thus alter'd from the Lord of half Mankind,
 Unbent, unfinew'd, made a Womans Toy,
 Shrunk from the vast extent of all his honors,
 And cramp't within a corner of the World?

O, *Antony!*

Thou bravest Soldier, and thou best of Friends!

Bounteous as Nature; next to Nature's God!

Could'st thou but make new Worlds, so wouldst thou give 'em,

As bounty were thy being. Rough in Battel,

As the first *Romans*, when they went to War;

Yet, after Victory, more pitiful,

Than all their Praying Virgins left at home!

Alex. Would you could add to those more shining Virtues,
 His truth to her who loves him.

Ven. Would I could not.

But, Wherefore waste I precious hours with thee?

Thou art her darling mischief, her chief Engin,

Antony's other Fate. Go, tell thy Queen,

Ventidius is arriv'd, to end her Charms.

Let your *Egyptian* Timbrels play alone;

Nor mix Effeminate Sounds with *Roman* Trumpets.
 You dare not fight for *Antony*; go Pray,
 And keep your Cowards-Holy-day in Temples. [*Exeunt Alex.*
 Serap.

Re-enter the Gentleman of M. Antony.

2. *Gent.* The Emperor approaches, and commands,
 On pain of Death, that none presume to stay.

1. *Gent.* I dare not disobey him. [*Going out with the other.*

Vent. Well, I dare.

But, I'll observe him first unseen, and find
 Which way his humour drives: the rest I'll venture. [*Withdraws.*

Enter Antony, walking with a disturb'd Motion,
before he speaks.

Antony. They tell me, 'tis my Birth-day, and I'll keep it
 With double pomp of sadness.

'Tis what the day deserves, which gave me breath.

Why was I rais'd the Meteor of the World,

Hung in the Skies, and blazing as I travel'd,

Till all my fires were spent; and then cast downward

To be trod out by *Cæsar*?

Ven. aside. On my Soul,

'Tis mournful, wondrous mournful!

Anto. Count thy gains.

Now, *Antony*, Wouldst thou be born for this?

Glutton of Fortune, thy devouring youth

Has starv'd thy wanting Age.

Ven. How sorrow shakes him!

[*aside.*

So, now the Tempest tears him up by th' Roots,

And on the ground extends the noble ruin.

Ant. having thrown himself down.

Lye there, thou shadow of an Emperor;

The place thou prestest on thy Mother Earth

Is all thy Empire now: now it contains thee;

Some few dayes hence, and then twill be too large,

When thou'rt contracted in thy narrow Urn,

Shrunk to a few cold Ashes; then *Octavia*,

(For *Cleopatra* will not live to see it)

Octavia then will have thee all her own,

And bear thee in her Widow'd hand to *Cæsar*;

Cesar will weep, the Crocodile will weep,
 To see his Rival of the Universe
 Lye still and peaceful there. I'll think no more on't.
 Give me some Musick; look that it be sad:
 I'll sooth my Melancholy, till I swell,
 And burst my self with sighing —————

[Soft Musick]

'Tis somewhat to my humor. Stay, I fancy
 I'm now turn'd wild, a Commoner of Nature;
 Of all forsaken, and forsaking all;
 Live in a shady Forrest's *Sylvan* Scene,
 Stretch'd at my length beneath some blasted Oke;
 I lean my head upon the Mossy Bark,
 And look just of a piece, as I grew from it:
 My uncomb'd Locks, matted like *Miseto*,
 Hang o're my hoary Face; a murm'ring Brook
 Runs at my foot.

Ven. Methinks I fancy
 My self there too.

Ant. The Herd come jumping by me,
 And fearless, quench their thirst, while I look on,
 And take me for their fellow-Citizen.
 More of this Image, more; it lulls my thoughts.

[Soft Musick again.]

Ven. I must disturb him; I can hold no longer. [stands before him.]

Ant. starting up. Art thou *Ventidius*?

Ven. Are you *Antony*?

I'm liker what I was, than you to him
 I left you last.

Ant. I'm angry.

Ven. So am I.

Ant. I would be private: leave me.

Ven. Sir, I love you,
 And therefore will not leave you.

Ant. Will not leave me?

Where have you learnt that Answer? Who am I?

Ven. My Emperor; the Man I love next Heaven:
 If I said more, I think 'twere scarce a Sin;
 Y'are all that's good, and good-like.

Ant. All that's wretched.

You will not leave me then ?

Ven. 'Twas too presuming

To say I would not ; but I dare not leave you :

And, 'tis unkind in you to chide me hence

So soon, when I so far have come to see you.

Ant. Now thou hast seen me, art thou satisfy'd ?

For, if a Friend, thou hast beheld enough ;

And, if a Foe, too much.

Ven. weeping. Look, Emperor, this is no common Deaw,

I have not wept this Forty year ; but now

My Mother comes afresh into my eyes ;

I cannot help her softness.

Ant. By Heav'n, he weeps, poor good old Man, he weeps !

The big round drops course one another down

The furrows of his cheeks. Stop 'em, *Ventidius*,

Or I shall blush to death : they set my shame,

That caus'd 'em, full before me.

Ven. I'll do my best.

Ant. Sure there's contagion in the tears of Friends :

See, I have caught it too. Believe me, 'tis not

For my own griefs, but thine——Nay, Father.

Ven. Emperor.

Ant. Emperor ! Why, that's the stile of Victory,

The Conqu'ring Soldier, red with unfelt wounds,

Salutes his General so : but never more

Shall that sound reach my ears.

Ven. I warrant you.

Ant. *Actium*, *Actium* ! Oh—

Ven. It sits too near you.

Ant. Here, here it lies ; a lump of Lead by day,

And, in my short distracted nightly slumbers,

The Hag that rides my Dreams——

Ven. Out with it ; give it vent.

Ant. Urge not my shame.

I lost a Battel.

Ven. So has *Julius* done.

Ant. Thou favour'st me, and speak'st not half thou think'st ;

For *Julius* fought it out, and lost it fairly :

But *Antony*———

Ven. Nay, stop not.

Ant. *Antony*,

(Well, thou wilt have it) like a coward, fled,
Fled while his Soldiers fought; fled first, *Ventidius*.
Thou long'st to curse me, and I give thee leave.
I know thou cam'st prepar'd to rail.

Ven. I did.

Ant. I'll help thee—I have been a Man, *Ventidius*,

Ven. Yes, and a brave one; but———

Ant. I know thy meaning.

But, I have lost my Reason, have disgrac'd
The name of Soldier, with inglorious ease.
In the full Vintage of my flowing honors,
Sate still, and saw it prest by other hands.
Fortune came smiling to my youth, and woo'd it,
And purple greatness met my ripen'd years.
When first I came to Empire, I was born
On Tides of People, crowding to my Triumphs;
The wish of Nations, and the willing World
Receiv'd me as its pledge of future peace;
I was so great, so happy, so belov'd,
Fate could not ruine me; till I took pains
And work'd against my Fortune, chid her from me,
And turn'd her loose; yet still she came again.
My careless dayes, and my luxurious nights;
At length have weary'd her, and now she's gone,
Gone, gone, divorc'd for ever. Help me, Soldier,
To curse this Mad-man, this industrious Fool,
Who labour'd to be wretched: pr'ythee curse me.

Ven. No.

Ant. Why?

Ven. You are too sensible already

Of what y'have done, too conscious of your failings,
And like a Scorpion, whipt by others first
To fury, sting your self in mad revenge.
I would bring Balm, and pour it in your wounds,
Cure your distemper'd mind, and heal your fortunes.

Ant. I know thou would'st.

Ven. I will.

Ant. Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Ven. You laugh.

Ant. I do, to see officious love

Give Cordials to the dead.

Ven. You would be lost then?

Ant. I am.

Ven. I say, you are not. Try your fortune.

Ant. I have, to th'utmost. Dost thou think me desperate,

Without just cause? No, when I found all lost

Beyond repair, I hid me from the World,

And learnt to scorn it here; which now I do

So heartily, I think it is not worth

The cost of keeping.

Ven. *Cæsar* thinks not so:

He'll thank you for the gift he could not take.

You would be kill'd, like *Tully*, would you? do,

Hold out your Throat to *Cæsar*, and dye tamely.

Ant. No, I can kill my self; and so resolve.

Ven. I can dy with you too, when time shall serve;

But Fortune calls upon us now to live,

To fight, to Conquer.

Ant. Sure thou Dream'st, *Ventidius*.

Ven. No; 'tis you Dream; you sleep away your hours

In desperate sloth, miscall'd *Phylosophy*.

Up, up, for Honor's sake; twelve Legions wait you,

And long to call you Chief: by painful journeys,

I led 'em, patient, both of heat and hunger,

Down from the *Parthian* Marches, to the *Nile*.

'Twill do you good to see their Sun-burnt faces,

Their skar'd cheeks, and chopt hands; there's virtue in 'em;

They'll sell those mangled limbs at dearer rates

Than yon trim Bands can buy.

Ant. Where left you them?

Ven. I said, in lower *Syria*.

Ant. Bring 'em hither;

There may be life in these.

Ven. They will not come.

Ant. Why didst thou mock my hopes with promis'd aids

To double my despair ? They'r mutinous.

Ven. Most firm and loyal.

Ant. Yet they will not march

To succor me. Oh trifler !

Ven. They petition

You would make hast to head 'em,

Ant. I'm besieg'd.

Ven. There's but one way shut up : How came I hither ?

Ant. I will not stir.

Ven. They would perhaps desire.

A better reason.

Ant. I have never us'd

My Soldiers to demand a reason of

My actions. Why did they refuse to March ?

Ven. They said they would not fight for *Cleopatra*.

Ant. What was't they said ?

Ven. They said, they would not fight for *Cleopatra*.

Why should they fight indeed, to make her Conquer,

And make you more a Slave ? to gain you Kingdoms,

Which, for a kiss, at your next midnight Feast,

You'l sell to her ? then she new names her Jewels,

And calls this Diamond such or such a Tax,

Each Pendant in her ear shall be a Province.

Ant. *Ventidius*, I allow your Tongue free licence

On all my other faults ; but, on your life,

No word of *Cleopatra* : She deserves

More World's than I can lose.

Ven. Behold, you Pow'rs,

To whom you have intrusted Humankind ;

See *Europe*, *Africk*, *Asia* put in ballance,

And all weigh'd down by one light worthless Woman !

I think the gods are *Antony's*, and give

Like Prodigals, this neather World away,

To none but wastful hands.

Ant. You grow presumptuous.

Ven. I take the priviledge of plain love to speak.

Ant. Plain love ! plain arrogance, plain insolence :

Thy Men are Cowards ; thou, an envious Traitor ;

Who, under seeming honesty, hast vented

The burden of thy rank o'reflowing Gall.
O that thou wert my equal ; great in Arms
As the first *Cæsar* was, that I might kill thee
Without a Stain to Honor !

Ven. You may kill me ;

You have done more already, call'd me Traitor.

Ant. Art thou not one ?

Ven. For showing you your self,

Which none else durst have done ; but had I been
That name, which I disdain to speak again,
I needed not have sought your abject fortunes,
Come to partake your fate, to dye with you,
What hindred me t' have led my Conqu'ring Eagles
To fill *Octavius's* Bands ? I could have been
A Traitor then, a glorious happy Traitor,
And not have been so call'd.

Ant. Forgive me, Soldier :

I've been too passionate.

Ven. You thought me false ;

Thought my old age betray'd you : kill me, Sir ;
Pray kill me ; yet you need not, your unkindness
Has left your Sword no work.

Ant. I did not think so ;

I said it in my rage : pr'ythee forgive me :
Why did'st thou tempt my anger , by discovery
Of what I would not hear ?

Ven. No Prince but you,

Could merit that sincerity I us'd,
Nor durst another Man have ventur'd it ;
But you, ere Love misled your wandring eyes,
Were sure the chief and best of Human Race,
Fram'd in the very pride and boast of Nature,
So perfect, that the gods who form'd you wonder'd
At their own skill, and cry'd, A lucky hit
Has mended our design. Their envy hindred,
Else you had been immortal, and a pattern,
When Heav'n would work for ostentation sake,
To copy out again.

Ant. But *Cleopatra* —————

Go on; for I can bear it now.

Ven. No more.

Ant. Thou dar'st not trust my Passion; but thou may'st:
Thou only lov'st; the rest have flatter'd me.

Ven. Heav'n's blessing on your heart, for that kind word.
May I believe you love me? speak again.

Ant. Indeed I do. Speak this, and this, and this. [*Hugging him.*]
Thy praises were unjust; but, I'll deserve 'em,
And yet mend all. Do with me what thou wilt;
Lead me to victory, thou know'st the way.

Ven. And, Will you leave this——

Ant. Pr'ythee do not curse her,
And I will leave her; though, Heav'n knows, I love
Beyond Life, Conquest, Empire; all, but Honor:
But I will leave her.

Ven. That's my Royal Master:
And, Shall we fight?

Ant. I warrant thee, old Soldier,
Thou shalt behold me once again in Iron,
And at the head of our old Troops, that beat
The *Parthians*, cry alloud, Come follow me.

Ven. O now I hear my Emperor! in that word
Octavius fell. Gods, let me see that day,
And, if I have ten years behind, take all;
I'll thank you for th' exchange.

Ant. Oh *Cleopatra*!

Ven. Again?

Ant. I've done: in that last sigh, she went.
Cæsar shall know what 'tis to force a Lover,
From all he holds most dear.

Ven. Methinks you breath
Another Soul: Your looks are more Divine;
You speak a Heroe, and you move a God.

Ant. O, thou hast fir'd me; my Soul's up in Arms,
And Mans each part about me: once again,
That noble eagerness of fight has seiz'd me;
That eagerness, with which I darted upward
To *Cassius's* Camp: In vain the steepy Hill,
Oppos'd my way; in vain a War of Speares

Sung round my head ; and planted all my shield :
I won the Trenches, while my formost Men
Lag'd on the Plain below.

Ven. Ye Gods, ye Gods,
For such another hour.

Ant. Come on, My Soldier !
Our hearts and armes are still the same : I long
Once more to meet our foes ; that Thou and I,
Like Time and Death, marching before our Troops,
May taste fate to e'm ; Mowe e'm out a passage,
And, entring where the foremost Squadrons yield,
Begin the noble Harvest of the Field.

[*Exeunt.*

ACT. II.

Cleopatra, Iras, and Alexas.

Cleo.

W

Hat shall I do, or whither shall I
turn ?

Ventidius has o'rcome, and he will
go.

Alex. He goes to fight for you.

Cleo. Then he wou'd see me, ere
he went to fight :

Flatter me not : if once he goes, he's lost :
And all my hopes destroy'd.

Alex. Does this weak passion
Become a Mighty Queen ?

Cleo. I am no Queen ;
Is this to be a Queen, to be besieg'd
By yon insulting *Roman* ; and to wait
Each hour the Victor's Chain ? These ills are small ;
For *Antony* is lost, and I can mourn
For nothing else but him. Now come, *Octavius*,
I have no more to lose ; prepare thy Bands ;
I'm fit to be a Captive : *Antony*

Has taught my mind the fortune of a Slave:

Iras. Call Reason to assist you.

Cleo. I have none.

And none would have: my Love's a noble madaef, Which shows the cause deserv'd it. Moderate sorrow

Fits vulgar Love; and for a vulgar Man:

But I have lov'd with such transcendent passion,

I soard, at first, quite out of Reasons view,

And now am lost above it — No, I'm proud

'Tis thus: would *Antony* could see me now;

Think you he would not sigh? though he must leave me,

Sure he would sigh; for he is noble-natur'd,

And bears a tender heart: I know him well.

Ah, no, I know him not; I knew him once,

But now 'tis past.

Iras. Let it be past with you:

Forget him, Madam.

Cleo. Never, never, *Iras.*

He once was mine; and once, though now 'tis gone,

Leaves a faint Image of possession still.

Alex. Think him unconstant, cruel, and ungrateful.

Cleo. I cannot: if I could, those thoughts were vain; Faithless, ungrateful, cruel, though he be, I still must love him.

Enter Charmion.

Now, What news my *Charmion*?

Will he be kind? and, Will he not forsake me?

Am I to live, or dye? nay, Do I live?

Or am I dead? for, when he gave his answer,

Fate took the word, and then I liv'd, or dy'd.

Char. I found him, Madam —

Cleo. A long Speech preparing?

If thou bring'st comfort, hast, and give it me;

For never was more need.

Iras. I know he loves you.

Cleo. Had he been kind, her eyes had told me so, Before her tongue could speak it: now she studies, To soften what he said; but give me death,

Just as he sent it, *Charmion*, undisguis'd,
And in the words he spoke.

Char. I found him then
Incompass'd round, I think, with Iron Statues,
So mute, so motionless his Soldiers stood,
While awfully he cast his eyes about,
And ev'ry Leaders hopes or fears survey'd:
Methought he look'd resolv'd, and yet not pleas'd.
When he beheld me struggling in the croud,
He blush'd, and bade, make way.

Alex. There's comfort yet.

Char. *Ventidius* fixt his eyes upon my passage,
Severely, as he meant to frown me back,
And sullenly gave place: I told my message,
Just as you gave it, broken and disorder'd;
I numbred in it all your sighs and tears,
And while I mov'd your pitiful request,
That you but only beg'd a last farewell,
He fetch'd an inward groan, and ev'ry time
I nam'd you, sigh'd, as if his heart were breaking,
But shun'd my eyes, and guiltily look'd down;
He seem'd not now that awful *Antony*
Who shook an Arm'd Assembly with his Nod,
But making show as he would rub his eyes,
Disguis'd and blotted out a falling tear.

Cleop. Did he then weep? and, Was I worth a tear?
If what thou hast to say be not as pleasing,
Tell me no more, but let me dye contented.

Char. He bid me say, He knew himself so well,
He could deny you nothing, if he saw you;
And therefore ———

Cleop. Thou would'st say, he wou'd not see me?

Charm. And therefore beg'd you not to use a power,
Which he could ill resist; yet he should ever
Respect you as he ought.

Cleo. Is that a word
For *Antony* to use to *Cleopatra*?
Oh that faint word, Respect! how I disdain it!
Disdain myself, for loving after it!

He should have kept that word for cold *Octavia*.
Respect is for a Wife: Am I that thing,
That dull insipid lump, without desires,
And without pow'r to give 'em?

Alex. You misjudge;
You see through Love, and that deludes your sight:
As, what is strait, seems crooked through the Water;
But I, who bear my reason undisturb'd,
Can see this *Antony*, this dreaded Man,
A fearful slave, who fain would run away,
And shuns his Master's eyes: -if you pursue him,
My life on't, he still drags a chain along,
That needs must clog his flight.

Cleo. Could I believe thee! —————

Alex. By ev'ry circumstance I know he Loves.
True, he's hard prest, by Intrest and by Honor;
Yet he but doubts, and parlyes, and casts out
Many a long look for succor.

Cleo. He sends word,
He fears to see my face.

Alex. And would you more?
He shows his weakness who declines the Combat;
And you must urge your fortune. Could he speak
More plainly? To my ears, the Message sounds
Come to my rescue, *Cleopatra*, come;
Come, free me from *Ventidius*; from my Tyrant:
See me, and give me a pretence to leave him.
I hear his Trumpets. This way he must pass.
Please you, retire a while; I'll work him first,
That he may bend more easie.

Cleo. You shall rule me;
But all, I fear, in vain.

[*Exit with Char. and Iras.*]

Alex. I fear so too;
Though I conceal'd my thoughts, to make her bold:
But, 'tis our utmost means, and Fate befriend it. [*Withdraws.*]

Enter Lictors with Fasces; one bearing the Eagle: then
Enter Antony with Ventidius, follow'd by
other Commanders.

Ant. *Octavius* is the Minion of blind Chance,

But

But holds from Virtue nothing.

Ven. Has he courage ?

Ant. But just enough to season him from Coward.

O, 'tis the coldest youth upon a Charge,
The most deliberate fighter ! if he ventures
(As in *Illyria* once they say he did
To storm a Town) 'tis when he cannot chuse,
When all the World have fixt their eyes upon him ;
And then he lives on that for seven years after ,
But, at a close revenge he never fails.

Ven. I heard, you challeng'd him.

Ant. I did, *Ventidius*.

What think'st thou was his answer ? 'twas so tame, ———
He said he had more wayes than one to dye ;
I had not.

Ven. Poor !

Ant. He has more wayes than one ;

But he would chuse 'em all before that one.

Ven. He first would chuse an Ague, or a Fever :

Ant. No: it must be an Ague, not a Fever ;

He has not warmth enough to dye by that.

Ven. Or old Age, and a Bed.

Ant. I, there's his choice.

He would live, like a Lamp, to the last wink,
And crawl upon the utmost verge of life :
O *Hercules* ! Why should a Man like this,
Who dares not trust his fate for one great action,
Be all the care of Heav'n ? Why should he Lord it
O're Fourscore thousand Men, of whom, each one
Is braver than himself ?

Ven. You conquer'd for him :

Philippi knows it ; there you shar'd with him
That Empire, which your Sword made all your own.

Ant. Fool that I was, upon my Eagles Wings

I bore this Wren, till I was tir'd with soaring,

And now he mounts above me.

Good Heav'ns, Is this, is this the Man who braves me ?

Who bids my age make way : drives me before him,
To the World's ridge, and sweeps me off like rubbish ?

Ven. Sir, we lose time ; the Troops are mounted all.

Ant. Then give the word to March:
I long to leave this Prison of a Town,
To joyn thy Legions; and, in open Field,
Once more to show my face. Lead, my Deliverer.

Enter Alex.

Alex. Great Emperor,
In mighty Arms renown'd above Mankind,
But, in soft pity to th' oppress'd, a God:
This message sends the mournful *Cleopatra*
To her departing Lord.

Ven. Smooth Sycophant!

Alex. A thousand wishes, and ten thousand Prayers,
Millions of blessings wait you to the Wars,
Millions of sighs and tears she sends you too,
And would have sent
As many dear embraces to your Arms,
As many parting kisses to your Lips;
But those, she fears, have weary'd you already.

Ven. aside. False Crocodile!

Alex. And yet she begs not now, you would not leave her,
That were a wish too mighty for her hopes,
Too presuming for her low Fortune, and your ebbing love,
That were a wish for her more prosperous dayes,
Her blooming beauty, and your growing kindness.

Ant. aside. Well, I must Man it out; What would the Queen?

Alex. First, to these noble Warriors, who attend,
Your daring courage in the Chase of Fame,
(Too daring, and too dang'rous for her quiet)
She humbly recommends all she holds dear,
All her own cares and fears, the care of you.

Ven. Yes, witness *Adium*.

Ant. Let him speak, *Ventidius*.

Alex. You, when his matchless valor bears him forward,
With ardor too Heroick, on his foes
Fall down, as she would do, before his feet;
Lye in his way, and stop the paths of Death;
Tell him, this God is not invulnerable,
That absent *Cleopatra* bleeds in him;
And, that you may remember her Petition,

She begs you wear these Trifles, as a pawn,
Which, at your wisht return, she will redeem

Gives Jewels to the Commanders.

With all the Wealth of *Ægypt* :
This, to the great *Ventidius* she presents,
Whom she can never count her Enemy,
Because he loves her Lord.

Ven. Tell her I'll none on't ;
I'm not asham'd of honest Poverty :
Not all the Diamonds of the East can bribe
Ventidius from his faith. I hope to see
These, and the rest of all her sparkling store,
Where they shall more deservingly be plac'd.

Ant. And who must wear 'em then ?

Ven. The wrong'd *Octavia*.

Ant. You might have spar'd that word.

Ven. And he that Bribe.

Ant. But have I no remembrance ?

Alex. Yes, a dear one :

Your slave, the Queen ———

Ant. My Mistrefs.

Alex. Then your Mistrefs,
Your Mistrefs would, she says, have sent her Soul,
But that you had long since ; she humbly begs
This Ruby bracelet, set with bleeding hearts,
(The emblems of her own) may bind your Arme.

[*Presenting a Bracelet.*

Ven. Now, my best Lord, in Honor's name, I ask you,
For Manhood's sake, and for your own dear safety,
Touch not these poyson'd gifts,
Infected by the sender, touch 'em not,
Miriads of blewest Plagues lye underneath 'em,
And more than Aconite has dipt the Silk.

Ant. Nay, now you grow too Cynical, *Ventidius*.
A Lady's favors may be worn with honor.
What, to refuse her Bracelet ! On my Soul,
When I lye pensive in my Tent alone,
'Twill pass the wakeful hours of Winter nights,
To tell these pretty Beads upon my arm,

To count for every one a soft embrace,
 A melting kiss at such and such a time;
 And now and then the fury of her love.
 When — And what harm's in this?

Alex. None, none my Lord,

But what's to her, that now 'tis past for ever.

Ant. going } We Soldiers are so aukward ————— help me
to tye it. } tye it.

Alex. In faith, my Lord, we Courtiers too are aukward
 In these affairs: so are all Men indeed;

Ev'n I, who am not one. But shall I speak?

Ant. Yes, freely.

Alex. Then, my Lord, fair hands alone
 Are fit to tye it; she, who sent it, can.

Ven. Hell, Death; this Eunuch Pandar ruins you.
 You will not see her?

[*Alexas whispers an Attendant, who goes out.*]

Ant. But to take my leave.

Ven. Then I have wash'd an *Æthiope*. Y'are undone;
 Y'are in the Toils; y'are taken; y'are destroy'd:
 Her eyes do *Cæsar's* work.

Ant. You fear too soon.

I'm constant to my self: I know my strength;
 And yet she shall not think me Barbarous, neither.
 Born in the depths of *Africk*: I'm a Roman,
 Bred to the Rules of soft humanity.
 A guest, and kindly us'd, should bid farewell.

Ven. You do not know

How weak you are to her, how much an Infant;
 You are not proof against a smile, or glance;
 A sigh will quite disarm you.

Ant. See, she comes!

Now you shall find your error. Gods, I thank you:
 I form'd the danger greater than it was,
 And, now 'tis near, 'tis lessen'd.

Ven. Mark the end yet.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmion and Iras.

Ant. Well, Madam, we are met.

Cleo. Is this a Meeting ?

Then, we must part ?

Ant. We must.

Cleo. Who sayes we must ?

Ant. Our own hard fates.

Cleo. We make those Fates our selves.

Ant. Yes, we have made 'em ; we have lov'd each other
Into our mutual ruin.

Cleo. The Gods have seen my Joys with envious eyes ;
I have no friends in Heav'n ; and all the World,
(As 'twere the bus'ness of Mankind to part us)
Is arm'd against my Love : ev'n you your self
Joyn with the rest ; you, you are arm'd against me.

Ant. I will be justify'd in all I do
To late Posterity, and therefore hear me.

If I mix a lye

With any truth, reproach me freely with it ;

Else, favor me with silence.

Cleo. You command me,
And I am dumb :

Ven. I like this well : he shows Authority.

Ant. That I derive my ruin
From you alone —

Cleo. O Heav'ns ! I ruin you !

Ant. You promis'd me your silence, and you break it
Ere I have scarce begun.

Cleo. Well, I obey you.

Ant. When I beheld you first, it was in *Ægypt*,
Ere *Cæsar* saw your Eyes ; you gave me love,
And were too young to know it ; that I settled
Your Father in his Throne, was for your sake,
I left th' acknowledgment for time to ripen.
Cæsar stept in, and with a greedy hand
Pluck'd the green fruit, ere the first blush of red
Yet cleaving to the bough. He was my Lord,
And was, beside, too great for me to rival,
But, I deserv'd you first, though he enjoy'd you.

When, after, I beheld you in *Cilicia*,
An Enemy to *Rome*, I pardon'd you.

Cleo. I clear'd my self——

Ant. Again you break your Promise.

I lov'd you still, and took your weak excuses,
Took you into my bosome, stain'd by *Cæsar*,
And not half mine : I went to *Ægypt* with you
And hid me from the bus'ness of the World,
Shut out enquiring Nations from my sight,
To give whole years to you.

Ven. Yes, to your shame be't spoken.

[*aside.*

Ant. How I lov'd

Witness ye Dayes and Nights, and all your hours,
That Danc'd away with Down upon your Feet,
As all your bus'ness were to count my passion.
One day past by, and nothing saw but Love;
Another came, and still 'twas only Love:
The Suns were weary'd out with looking on,
And I untyr'd with loving.
I saw you ev'ry day, and all the day;
And ev'ry day was still but as the first:
So eager was I still to see you more.

Ven. 'Tis all too true.

Ant. *Fulvia*, my Wife, grew jealous,
As she indeed had reason; rais'd a War
In *Italy*, to call me back.

Ven. But yet
You went not.

Ant. While within your arms I lay,
The World fell mouldring from my hands each hour,
And left me scarce a grasp (I thank your love for't.)

Ven. Well push'd : that last was home:

Cleo. Yet may I speak?

Ant. If I have urg'd a fallshood, yes; else, 'not.

Your silence says I have not. *Fulvia* dy'd;
(Pardon, you gods, with my unkindness dy'd)
To set the World at Peace, I took *Octavia*,
This *Cæsar's* Sister; in her pride of youth

And flow'r of Beauty did I wed that Lady,
Whom blushing I must praise, because I left her.
You call'd ; my Love obey'd the fatal summons :
This rais'd the Roman Arms ; the Cause was yours.
I would have fought by Land, where I was stronger ;
You hindred it : yet, when I fought at Sea,
Forsook me fighting ; and (Oh stain to Honor !
Oh lasting shame !) I knew not that I fled ;
But fled to follow you.

Ven. What haste she made to hoist her purple Sails !
And, to appear magnificent in flight,
Drew half our strength away.

Ant. All this you caus'd.
And, Would you multiply more ruins on me ?
This honest Man, my best, my only friend,
Has gather'd up the Shipwrack of my Fortunes ;
Twelve Legions I have left, my last recruits,
And you have watch'd the news, and bring your eyes
To seize them too. If you have ought to answer,
Now speak, you have free leave.

Alex. aside. She stands confounded :
Despair is in her eyes.

Ven. Now lay a Sigh i'th way, to stop his passage :
Prepare a Tear, and bid it for his Legions ;
'Tis like they shall be sold.

Cleo. How shall I plead my cause, when you, my Judge
Already have condemn'd me ? Shall I bring
The Love you bore me for my Advocate ?
That now is turn'd against me, that destroys me ;
For, love once past, is, at the best, forgotten ;
But oftner sours to hate : 'twill please my Lord
To ruine me, and therefore I'll be guilty.
But, could I once have thought it would have pleas'd you,
That you would pry, with narrow searching eyes
Into my faults, severe to my destruction.
And watching all advantages with care,
That serve to make me wretched ? Speak, my Lord,
For I end here. Though I deserve this usage,

Was it like you to give it?

Ant. O you wrong me,
To think I sought this parting, or desir'd
To accuse you more than what will clear my self,
And justifie this breach.

Cleo. Thus low I thank you.
And, since my innocence will not offend,
I shall not blush to own it.

Ven. After this
I think she'll blush at nothing.

Cleo. You seem griev'd,
(And therein you are kind) that *Cæsar* first
Enjoy'd my love, though you deserv'd it better:
I grieve for that, my Lord, much more than you;
For, had I first been yours, it would have sav'd
My second choice: I never had been his,
And ne'r had been but yours. But *Cæsar* first,
You say, possess'd my love. Not so, my Lord:
He first possess'd my Person; you my Love:
Cæsar lov'd me; but I lov'd *Antony*.
If I endur'd him after, 'twas because
I judg'd it due to the first name of Men;
And, half constrain'd, I gave, as to a Tyrant,
What he would take by force.

Ven. O Syren! Syren!
Yet grant that all the love she boasts were true,
Has she not ruin'd you? I still urge that,
The fatal consequence.

Cleo. The consequence indeed,
For I dare challenge him, my greatest foe,
To say it was design'd: 'tis true, I lov'd you,
And kept you far from an uneasy Wife,
(Such *Fulvia* was.)
Yes, but he'll say, you left *Octavia* for me;—
And, Can you blame me to receive that love,
Which quitted such desert, for worthless me?
How often have I wish'd some other *Cæsar*,

Great as the first, and as the second young,
Would court my Love to be refus'd for you!

Ven. Words, words; but *Actium*, Sir, remember *Actium*.

Cleo. Ev'n there, I dare his malice. True, I Counsel'd
To fight at Sea; but, I betray'd you not.
I fled; but not to the Enemy. 'Twas fear;
Would I had been a Man, not to have fear'd,
For none would then have envy'd me your friendship,
Who envy me your Love.

Ant. We're both unhappy:

If nothing else, yet our ill fortune parts us.
Speak; Would you have me perish, by my stay?

Cleo. If as a friend you ask my Judgment, go;
If as a Lover, stay. If you must perish:
'Tis a hard word; but stay.

Ven. See now th' effects of her so boasted love!
She strives to drag you down to ruine with her:
But, could she scape without you, oh how soon
Would she let go her hold, and haste to shore,
And never look behind!

Cleo. Then judge my love by this. [*Giving Antony a Writing.*
Could I have born

A life or death, a happiness or woe
From yours divided, this had giv'n me means.

Ant. By *Hercules*, the Writing of *Octavius*!
I know it well; 'tis that Proscribing hand,
Young as it was, that led the way to mine,
And left me but the second place in Murder. —

See, see, *Ventidius*! here he offers *Aegypt*,
And joyns all *Syria* to it, as a present,
So, in requital, she forsake my fortunes,
And joyn her Arms with his.

Cleo. And yet you leave me!

You leave me, *Anthony*; and, yet I love you.

Indeed I do: I have refus'd a Kingdom,

That's a Trifle:

For I could part with life; with any thing,

But onely you. O let me dye but with you!

Is that a hard request?

Ant. Next living with you,
'Tis all that Heav'n can give.

Alex. *aside.* He melts; We conquer.

Cleo. No: you shall go: your Int'rest calls you hence;
Yes; your dear interest pulls too strong, for these
Weak Armes to hold you here. —————

[Takes his hand.]

Go; leave me, Soldier;

(For you're no more a Lover:) leave me dying:
Push me all pale and panting from your bosome,
And, when your March begins, let one run after
Breathless almost for Joy; and cry, she's dead:
The Souldiers shout; you then perhaps may sigh,
And muster all your *Roman* Gravity;
Ventidius chides; and strait your Brow cleares up:
As I had never been.

Ant. Gods, 'tis too much; too much for Man to bear!

Cleo. What is't for me then,
A weak forsaken Woman? and a Lover?—
Here let me breathe my last: envy me not
This minute in your Armes: I'll dye apace:
As fast as ere I can; and end your trouble.

Ant. Dye! Rather let me perish: loofs'nd Nature
Leap from its hinges. Sink the props of Heav'n,
And fall the Skyes to crush the neather World.
My Eyes, my Soul; my all! —————

[Embraces her.]

Ven. And what's this Toy
In ballance with your fortune, Honor, Fame?

Ant. What is't, *Ventidius*? it out-weighs 'em all;
Why, we have more than conquer'd *Cæsar* now:
My Quee n's not only Innocent, but Loves me.
This, this is she who drags me down to ruin!
But, could she scape without me, with what haste
Would she let slip her hold, and make to shore,
And never look behind!

Down on thy knees, Blasphemer as thou art,
And ask forgiveness of wrong'd Innocence.

Ven. I'll rather dye, than take it. Will you go?

Ant. Go! Whither? go from all that's excellent!
 Faith, Honor, Virtue, all good things forbid,
 That I should go from her, who sets my love
 Above the price of Kingdoms. Give, you Gods,
 Give to your Boy, your *Cæsar*,
 This Rattle of a Globe to play withal,
 This Gu-gau World, and put him cheaply off:
 I'll not be pleas'd with less than *Cleopatra*.

Cleo. She wholly yours. My heart's so full of joy,
 That I shall do some wild extravagance
 Of Love, in publick; and the foolish World,
 Which knows not tenderness, will think me Mad.

Ven. O Women! Women! Women! all the gods
 Have not such pow'r of doing good to Man,
 As you of doing harm.

[Exit.]

Ant. Our Men are Arm'd.
 Unbar the Gate that looks to *Cæsar's* Camp;
 I would revenge the Treachery he meant me:
 And long security makes Conquest easie.
 I'm eager to return before I go;
 For, all the pleasures I have known, beat thick
 On my remembrance: how I long for night!
 That both the sweets of mutual love may try,
 And once Triumph o're *Cæsar* we dye.

[Exeunt.]

A C T. III.

At one door, Enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras, and Alexas, a Train of Ægyptians: at the other, Antony and Romans. The entrance on both sides is prepar'd by Musick; the Trumpets first sounding on Antony's part: then answer'd by Timbrels, &c. on Cleopatra's. Charmion and Iras hold a Laurel Wreath betwixt them. A Dance of Ægyptians. After the Ceremony, Cleopatra Crowns Antony.

Ant.

I Thought how those white arms would fold me in,
And strain me close, and melt me into love;
So pleas'd with that sweet Image, I sprung for-
wards,
And added all my strength to every blow;
Cleo. Come to me, come, my Soldier, to my Arms,

You've been too long away from my embraces;
But, when I have you fast, and all my own,
With broken murmurs, and with amorous sighs,
I'll say, you were unkind, and punish you,
And mark you red with many an eager kiss.

Ant. My Brighter *Venus!*

Cleo. O my greater *Mars!*

Ant. Thou jointst us well, my Love!

Suppose me come from the *Phlegrean* Plains,
Where gasping Gyants lay, cleft by my Sword:
And Mountain tops par'd off each other blow,
To bury those I slew: receive me, goddess:
Let *Cæsar* spread his subtle Nets, like *Vulcan*,
In thy embraces I would be beheld
By Heav'n and Earth at once:
And make their envy what they meant their sport.
Let those who took us blush; I would love on
With awful State, regardless of their frowns,

As their superior god:
 There's no satiety of Love, in thee;
 Enjoy'd, thou still art new; perpetual Spring
 Is in thy armes; the ripen'd fruit but falls,
 And blossoms rise to fill its empty place;
 And I grow rich by giving.

Enter Ventidius, and stands apart.

Alex. O, now the danger's past, your General comes.
 He joyns not in your joys, nor minds your Triumphs;
 But, with contracted brows, looks frowning on,
 As envying your Success.

Ant. Now, on my Soul, he loves me; truly loves me;
 He never flatter'd me in any vice,
 But awes me with his virtue: ev'n this minute
 Methinks he has a right of chiding me.
 Lead to the Temple: I'll avoid his presence;
 It checks too strong upon me.

[Exeunt the rest.]

As Antony is going, Ventidius pulls him by the Robe.

Ven. Emperor.

Ant. look- } 'Tis the old argument; I pr'ythee spare me.

ing back. } *Ven.* But this one hearing, Emperor.

Ant. Let go

My Robe; or, by my Father *Hercules*——

Ven. By *Hercules* his Father, that's yet greater,
 I bring you somewhat you would wish to know.

Ant. Thou see'st we are observ'd; attend me here,
 And I'll return.

[Exit.]

Ven. I'm waining in his favor, yet I love him;
 I love this Man, who runs to meet his ruine;
 And, sure the gods, like me, are fond of him:
 His Virtues lye so mingled with his Crimes,
 As would confound their choice to punish one,
 And not reward the other.

Enter Antony.

Ant. We can conquer.

You see, without your aid.

We have dislodg'd their Troops,

They look on us at distance, and, like Curs

Scap'd from the Lions paws, they bay far off,

And

And lick their wounds, and faintly threaten War.
Five thousand *Romans* with their faces upward,
Lye breathless on the Plain.

Ven. 'Tis well: and he
Who lost 'em, could have spar'd Ten thousand more.
Yet if, by this advantage, you could gain
An easier Peace, while *Cæsar* doubts the Chance
Of Arms! —————

Ant. O think not on't, *Ventidius*;
The Boy pursues my ruin, he'll no peace:
His malice is considerate in advantage;
O, he's the coolest Murderer, so stanch,
He kills, and keeps his temper.

Ven. Have you no friend
In all his Army, who has power to move him,
Mecænas, or *Agrippa* might do much.

Ant. They're both too deep in *Cæsar's* interests.
We'll work it out by dint of Sword, or perish.

Ven. Fain I would find some other.

Ant. Thank thy love.
Some four or five such Victories as this,
Will save thy farther pains.

Ven. Expect no more; *Cæsar* is on his Guard:
I know, Sir, you have conquer'd against odds;
But still you draw Supplies from one poor Town,
And of *Ægyptians*: he has all the World,
And, at his back, Nations come pouring in,
To fill the gaps you make. Pray think again.

Ant. Why dost thou drive me from my self, to search
For Forreign aids? to hunt my memory,
And range all o're a waste and barren place
To find a Friend? The wretched have no Friends ———
Yet I had one, the bravest youth of *Rome*,
Whom *Cæsar* loves beyond the love of Women;
He could resolve his mind, as Fire does Wax,
From that hard rugged Image, melt him down,
And mould him in what softer form he pleas'd.

Ven. Him would I see; that man of all the world:
Just such a one we want.

Ant. He lov'd me too,
I was his Soul; he liv'd not but in me:
We were so clos'd within each others breasts,
The rivets were not found that join'd us first,
That does not reach us yet: we were so mixt,
As meeting streams, both to our selves were lost;
We were one mass; we could not give or take,
But from the same; for he was I, I he.

Ven. aside. He moves as I would wish him.

Ant. After this,
I need not tell his name: 'twas *Dollabella*.

Ven. He's now in *Cæsar's* Camp.

Ant. No matter where,
Since he's no longer mine. He took unkindly
That I forbade him *Cleopatra's* fight;
Because I fear'd he lov'd her: he confest
He had a warmth, which, for my sake, he stifled;
For 'twere impossible that two, so one,
Should not have lov'd the same. When he departed,
He took no leave; and that confirm'd my thoughts.

Ven. It argues that he lov'd you more than her,
Else he had staid; but he perceiv'd you jealous,
And would not grieve his friend: I know he loves you.

Ant. I should have seen him then ere now.

Ven. Perhaps
He has thus long been lab'ring for your peace.

Ant. Would he were here.

Ven. Would you believe he lov'd you?
I read your answer in your eyes; you would
Not to conceal it longer, he has sent
A Messenger from *Cæsar's* Camp, with Letters.

Ant. Let him appear.

Ven. I'll bring him instantly.

Exit Ventidius, and

Re-enters immediately with Dollabella.

Ant. 'Tis he himself, himself, by holy Friendship! [*Runs to*
Art thou return'd at last, my better half? embrace him.
Come, give me all my self.

Let me not live,
If the young Bridegroom, longing for his night,
Was ever half so fond.

Dolla. I must be silent; for my Soul is busie
About a nobler work: she's new come home,
Like a long-absent man, and wanders o'er
Each room, a stranger to her own, to look
If all be safe.

Ant. Thou hast what's left of me.
For I am now so sunk from what I was,
Thou find'st me at my lowest water-mark.
The Rivers that ran in, and rais'd my fortunes,
Are all dry'd up, or take another course:
What I have left is from my native Spring;
I've still a heart that swells, in scorn of fate,
And lifts me to my banks.

Dolla. Still you are Lord of all the World to me.

Ant. Why, then I yet am so; for thou art all.
If I had any joy when thou wert absent,
I grudg'd it to my self; methought I robb'd
Thee of thy part. But, Oh my *Dollabella!*
Thou hast beheld me other than I am,
Hast thou not seen my morning Chambers fill'd
With Scepter'd Slaves, who waited to salute me:
With Eastern Monarchs, who forgot the Sun,
To worship my uprising? Menial Kings
Ran coursing up and down my Palace-yard,
Stood silent in my presence, watch'd my eyes,
And, at my least command, all started out
Like Racers to the Goal.

Dolla. Slaves to your fortune:

Ant. Fortune is *Cesar's* now; and what am I?

Ven. What you have made your self; I will not flatter?

Ant. Is this friendly done?

Dolla. Yes, when his end is so, I must join with him;
Indeed I must, and yet you must not chide:
Why am I else your friend?

Ant. Take heed, young man,
How thou upbraid'st my love: the Queen has eyes,

And

And thou too hast a Soul. Canst thou remember
When, swell'd with hatred, thou beheld'st her first
As accessary to thy Brothers death?

Dolla. Spare my remembrance; 'twas a guilty day,
And still the blush hangs here.

Ant. To clear her self,
For sending him no aid, she came from *Egypt*.
Her Gally down the Silver *Cydnos* row'd,
The Tackling Silk, the Streamers wav'd with Gold,
The gentle Winds were lodg'd in Purple sails:
Her Nymphs, like *Nereids*, round her Couch, were plac'd;
Where she, another Sea-born *Venus*, lay.

Dolla. No more: I would not hear it.

Ant. O, you must!

She lay, and leant her cheek upon her hand,
And cast a look so languishingly sweet,
As if, secure of all beholders hearts,
Neglecting she could take 'em: Boys, like *Cupids*,
Stood fanning, with their painted wings, the winds
That plaid about her face: but if she smil'd,
A darting glory seem'd to blaze abroad:
That mens desiring eyes were never weary'd;
But hung upon the object: to soft Flutes
The Silver Oars kept time; and while they plaid,
The hearing gave new pleasure to the sight;
And both to thought: 'twas Heav'n, or somewhat more;
For she so charm'd all hearts, that gazing crowds
Stood panting on the shore, and wanted breath
To give their welcome voice.

Then, *Dollabella*, where was then thy Soul?
Was not thy fury quite disarm'd with wonder?
Didst thou not shrink behind me from those eyes,
And whisper in my ear, Oh tell her not
That I accus'd her of my Brothers death?

Dolla. And should my weakness be a plea for yours?
Mine was an age when love might be excus'd,
When kindly warmth, and when my springing youth
Made it a debt to Nature. Yours——

Ven. Speak boldly.

Yours, he would say, in your declining age,
 When no more heat was left but what you forc'd,
 When all the sap was needful for the Trunk,
 When it went down, then you constrain'd the course,
 And robb'd from Nature, to supply desire;
 In you (I would not use so harsh a word)
 But 'tis plain dotage.

Ant. Ha!

Dolla. 'I was urg'd too home.
 But yet the loss was private that I made;
 'Twas but my self I lost: I lost no Legions;
 I had no World to lose, no peoples love.

Ant. This from a friend?

Dolla. Yes, *Anthony*, a true one;
 A friend so tender, that each word I speak
 Stabs my own heart, before it reach your ear.
 O, judge me not less kind because I chide:
 To *Cæsar* I excuse you.

Ant. O ye Gods!

Have I then liv'd to be excus'd to *Cæsar*?

Dolla. As to your equal.

Ant. Well, he's but my equal:
 While I wear this, he never shall be more.

Dolla. I bring Conditions from him.

Ant. Are they Noble?

Methinks thou shouldst not bring 'em else; yet he
 Is full of deep dissembling; knows no Honour,
 Divided from his Int'rest. Fate mistook him;
 For Nature meant him for an Usurer,
 He's fit indeed to buy, not conquer Kingdoms.

Ven. Then, granting this,

What pow'r was theirs who wrought so hard a temper
 To honourable Terms!

Ant. It was my *Dollabella*, or some God.

Dolla. Nor I; nor yet *Mecænas*, nor *Agrippa*:
 They were your Enemies; and I a Friend
 Too weak alone; yet 'twas a *Roman's* deed.

Ant. 'Twas like a *Roman* done: show me that man
 Who has preserv'd my life, my love, my honour;

Let me but see his face.

Ven. That task is mine,

And, Heav'n thou know'st how pleasing.

Exit Ven.

Dolla. You'll remember

To whom you stand oblig'd?

Ant. When I forget it,

Be thou unkind, and that's my greatest curse.

My Queen shall thank him too.

Dolla. I fear she will not,

Ant. But she shall do't: the Queen, my *Dollabella!*

Hast thou not still some grudgings of thy Fever?

Dolla. I would not see her lost.

Ant. When I forsake her,

Leave me, my better Stars; for she has truth-

Beyond her beauty. *Cesar* tempted her,

At no less price than Kingdoms, to betray me;

But she resisted all: and yet thou chid'st me

For loving her too well. Could I do so?

Dolla. Yes, there's my reason.

*Re-enter Ventidius, with Octavia, leading Antony's
two little Daughters.*

Ant. Where? ——— *Octavia* there! *(Starting back.)*

Ven. What, is she poyson to you? a Disease?

Look on her, view her well; and those she brings:

Are they all strangers to your eyes? has Nature

No secret call, no whisper they are yours?

Dolla. For shame, my Lord, if not for love, receive 'em

With kinder eyes. If you confess a man,

Meet 'em, embrace 'em, bid 'em welcome to you.

Your arms should open, ev'n without your knowledge,

To clasp 'em in; your feet should turn to wings,

To bear you to 'em; and your eyes dart out,

And aim a kiss ere you could reach the lips.

Ant. I stood amaz'd to think how they came hither.

Ven. I sent for 'em; I brought 'em in, unknown

To *Cleopatra's* Guards.

Dolla. Yet are you cold?

Octav. Thus long I have attended for my welcome;

Which, as a stranger, sure I might expect.

Who

Who am I?

Ant. *Cæsar's Sister.*

Octav. That's unkind!

Had I been nothing more than *Cæsar's Sister*,
Know, I had still remain'd in *Cæsar's Camp*;
But your *Octavia*, your much injur'd Wife,
Tho' banish'd from your Bed, driv'n from your House,
In spite of *Cæsar's Sister*, still is yours.

'Tis true, I have a heart disdains your coldness,
And prompts me not to seek what you should offer;
But a Wife's Virtue still surmounts that pride:

I come to claim you as my own; to show
My duty first, to ask, nay beg, your kindness:
Your hand, my Lord; 'tis mine, and I will have it.

Ven. Do, take it, thou deserv'st it.

[Taking
his hand.

Dolla. On my Soul,

And so she does: she's neither too submissive,
Nor yet too haughty; but so just a mean,
Shows, as it ought, a Wife and *Roman* too.

Ant. I fear, *Octavia*, you have begg'd my life.

Octav. Begg'd it, my Lord?

Ant. Yes; begg'd it, my Ambassadors,
Poorly and basely begg'd it of your Brother.

Octav. Poorly and basely I could never beg;
Nor could my Brother grant.

Ant. Shall I, who, to my kneeling Slave, could say,
Rise up, and be a King; shall I fall down
And cry, Forgive me, *Cæsar*? shall I set
A Man, my Equal, in the place of *Jove*,
As he could give me being? No; that word,
Forgive, would choke me up,
And die upon my tongue.

Dolla. You shall not need it.

Ant. I will not need it. Come, you've all betray'd me:
My Friend too! To receive some vile conditions.
My Wife has bought me, with her prayers and tears;
And now I must become her branded Slave:
In every peevish mood she will upbraid
The life she gave: if I but look awry,

She cries, I'll tell my Brother.

Octav. My hard fortune
Subjects me still to your unkind mistakes.
But the Conditions I have brought are such
You need not blush to take: I love your Honour,
Because 'tis mine; it never shall be said
Octavia's Husband was her Brothers Slave.
Sir, you are free; free, ev'n from her you loath;
For, tho' my Brother bargains for your love,
Makes me the price and cement of your peace,
I have a Soul like yours; I cannot take
Your love as alms, nor beg what I deserve.
I'll tell my Brother we are reconcil'd;
He shall draw back his Troops, and you shall march
To rule the East: I may be dropt at *Athens*;
No matter where, I never will complain,
But only keep the barren Name of Wife,
And rid you of the trouble.

Ven. Was ever such a strife of sullen Honour!
Both scorn to be oblig'd.

Dolla. O, she has toucht him in the tender'st part;
See how he reddens with despight and shame
To be out-done in Generosity!

Ven. See how he winks! how he dries up a tear,
That fain would fall!

Ant. *Octavia*, I have heard you, and must praise
The greatness of your Soul;
But cannot yield to what you have propos'd:
For I can ne'er be conquer'd but by love;
And you do all for duty. You would free me,
And would be dropt at *Athens*; was't not so?

Octav. It was, my Lord.

Ant. Then I must be oblig'd
To one who loves me not, who, to her self,
May call me thankless and ungrateful Man:
I'll not endure it, no.

Ven. I'm glad it pinches there.

Octav. Would you triumph o'er poor *Octavia's* Virtue?

That

That pride was all I had to bear me up;
That you might think you ow'd me for your life,
And ow'd it to my duty, not my love.

I have been injur'd, and my haughty Soul
Could brook but ill the Man who slights my Bed.

Ant. Therefore you love me not.

Octav. Therefore, my Lord,

I should not love you.

Ant. Therefore you wou'd leave me?

Octav. And therefore I should leave you _____ if I could.

Dolla. Her Souls too great, after such injuries,
To say she loves; and yet she lets you see it.
Her modesty and silence plead her cause.

Ant. O, *Dollabella*, which way shall I turn?

I find a secret yielding in my Soul;
But *Cleopatra*, who would die with me,
Must she be left? Pity pleads for *Octavia*;
But does it not plead more for *Cleopatra*?

Ven. Justice and Pity both plead for *Octavia*;

For *Cleopatra*, neither.

One would be ruin'd with you; but she first
Had ruin'd you: the other, you have ruin'd,
And yet she would preserve you.

In every thing their merits are unequal.

Ant. O, my distracted Soul!

Octav. Sweet Heav'n compose it.

Come, come, my Lord, if I can pardon you,
Methinks you should accept it. Look on these;
Are they not yours? Or stand they thus neglected
As they are mine? Go to him, Children, go;
Kneel to him, take him by the hand, speak to him;
For you may speak, and he may own you too,
Without a blush; and so he cannot all
His Children: go, I say, and pull him to me,
And pull him to your selves, from that bad Woman.
You, *Agrippina*, hang upon his arms;
And you, *Antonia*, clasp about his waste:
If he will shake you off, if he will dash you
Against the Pavement, you must bear it, Children;

For you are mine, and I was born to suffer. [Here the Children

Ven. Was ever sight so moving! Emperor! go to him, &c.

Dolla. Friend!

Octav. Husband!

Both Childr. Father!

Ant. I am vanquish'd: take me,

Octavia; take me, Children; share me all. (Embracing them.)

I've been a thriftless Debtor to your loves,
And run out much, in riot, from your stock;
But all shall be amended.

Octav. O blest hour!

Dolla. O happy change!

Ven. My joy stops at my tongue;

But it has found two chanel's here for one,
And bubbles out above.

Ant. to Octav. This is thy Triumph; lead me where thou wilt;

Ev'n to thy Brothers Camp.

Octav. All there are yours.

Enter Alexas hastily.

Alex. The Queen, my Mistress, Sir, and yours——

Ant. 'Tis past. *Octavia*, you shall stay this night; To morrow,

Cæsar and we are one. [Ex. leading Octavia, Dol.

Ven. There's news for you; run, and the Children follow.

My officious Eunuch,

Be sure to be the first; haste forward:

Haste, my dear Eunuch, haste.

Exit.

Alex. This downright fighting Fool, this thick-scall'd Hero,

This blunt unthinking Instrument of death,

With plain dull Virtue, has out-gone my Wit:

Pleasure forsook my early'st Infancy,

The luxury of others robb'd my Cradle;

And ravish'd thence the promise of a Man:

Cast out from Nature, disinherited

Of what her meanest Children claim by kind;

Yet, greatness kept me from contempt: that's gone.

Had *Cleopatra* follow'd my advice,

Then he had been betray'd, who now forsakes:

She dies for love; but she has known its joys:

Gods, is this just, that I, who knows no joys,
Must die, because she loves?

Enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras, Train.

Oh, Madam, I have seen what blasts my eyes!

Octavia's here!

Cleop. Peace with that Raven's note.

I know it too; and now am in

The pangs of death.

Alex. You are no more a Queen;

Egypt is lost.

Cleop. What tell'st thou me of *Egypt*?

My Life, my Soul is lost! *Octavia* has him!

O fatal name to *Cleopatra's* love!

My kisses, my embraces now are hers;

While I—— But thou hast seen my Rival; speak,

Does she deserve this blessing? Is she fair,

Bright as a Goddess? and is all perfection

Confin'd to her? It is. Poor I was made

Of that course matter which, when she was finish'd,

The Gods threw by, for rubbish.

Alex. She's indeed a very Miracle.

Cleop. Death to my hopes, a Miracle!

Alex. bowing. A Miracle;

I mean of Goodness; for in Beauty, Madam,

You make all wonders cease.

Cleop. I was too rash:

Take this in part of recompence. But, Oh, [Giving a Ring.]

I fear thou flatter'st me.

Char. She comes! she's here!

Iras. Flie, Madam, *Cæsar's* Sister!

Cleop. Were she the Sister of the Thund'rer *Jove*,

And bore her Brothers Lightning in her eyes,

Thus would I face my Rival. [Meets Octav. with Ventid.]

*Octav. bears up to her. Their Trains
come up on either side.*

Octab. I need not ask if you are *Cleopatra*,

Your haughty carriage——

Cleop. Shows I am a Queen:

Nor need I ask you who you are?

Octav. A

Octav. A Roman :

A name that makes, and can unmake a Queen.

Cleop. Your Lord, the Man who serves me, is a *Roman*.

Octav. He was a *Roman*, till he lost that name

To be a Slave in *Egypt*; but I come

To free him thence.

Cleop. Peace, peace, my Lover's *Juno*.

When he grew weary of that Household-Clog,

He chose my easier bonds.

Octav. I wonder not

Your bonds are easie; you have long been practis'd

In that lascivious art: he's not the first

For whom you spread your snares: let *Cæsar* witness.

Cleop. I lov'd not *Cæsar*; 'twas but gratitude

I paid his love: the worst your malice can,

Is but to say the greatest of Mankind

Has been my Slave. The next, but far above him,

In my esteem, is he whom Law calls yours,

But whom his love made mine.

Oct. coming up close to her. I would view nearer

That face, which has so long usurp'd my right,

To find th'inevitable charms, that catch

Mankind so sure, that ruin'd my dear Lord.

Cleop. O, you do well to search; for had you known

But half these charms, you had not lost his heart.

Octav. Far be their knowledge from a *Roman* Lady,

Far from a modest Wife. Shame of our Sex,

Dost thou not blush, to own those black endearments

That make sin pleasing?

Cleop. You may blush, who want 'em.

If bounteous Nature, if indulgent Heav'n

Have giv'n me charms to please the bravest Man;

Should I not thank 'em? should I be ashamed,

And not be proud? I am, that he has lov'd me;

And, when I love, not him, Heav'n change this Face

For one like that.

Octav. Thou lov'st him not so well.

Cleop. I love him better, and deserve him more.

Octav. You do not; cannot: you have been his ruine.

Who made him cheap at *Rome*, but *Cleopatra* ?
 Who made him scorn'd abroad, but *Cleopatra* ?
 At *Affium*, who betray'd him ? *Cleopatra*.
 Who made his Children Orphans ? and poor me
 A wretched Widow ? only *Cleopatra* ?

Cleop. Yet she who loves him best is *Cleopatra*.
 If you have suffer'd, I have suffer'd more.
 You bear the specious Title of a Wife,
 To guild your Cause, and draw the pitying World
 To favour it : the World contemns poor me ;
 For I have lost my Honour, lost my Fame,
 And stain'd the glory of my Royal House,
 And all to bear the branded Name of Mistress.
 There wants but life, and that too I would lose
 For him I love.

Octav. Be't so then ; take thy wish.

Exit cum juv.

Cleop. And 'tis my wish,
 Now he is lost for whom alone I liv'd.
 My sight grows dim, and every object dances,
 And swims before me, in the maze of death.
 My spirits, while they were oppos'd, kept up ;
 They could not sink beneath a Rivals scorn :
 But now she's gone they faint.

Alex. Mine have had leisure
 To recollect their strength, and furnish counsel,
 To ruine her ; who else must ruine you.

Cleop. Vain Promiser !
 Lead me, my *Charmion* ; nay, your hand too, *Iras* :
 My grief has weight enough to sink you both.
 Conduct me to some solitary Chamber,
 And draw the Curtains round ;
 Then leave me to my self, to take alone
 My fill of grief:

There I till death will his unkindness weep :
 As harmless Infants moan themselves asleep.

Exeunt.

ACT. IV.

Antony, Dollabella.

Dolla. **W**Hy would you shift it from your self, on me?
Can you not tell her you must part?

Ant. I cannot.

I could pull out an eye, and bid it go,
And t'other should not weep. Oh, *Dollabella*,
How many deaths are in this word *Depart!*
I dare not trust my tongue to tell her so:
One look of hers, would thaw me into tears
And I should melt till I were lost agen.

Dolla. Then let *Ventidius*;
He's rough by nature.

Ant. Oh, he'll speak too harshly;
He'll kill her with the news: Thou, only thou.

Dolla. Nature has cast me in so soft a mould,
That but to hear a story feign'd for pleasure
Of some sad Lovers death, moistens my eyes,
And robs me of my Manhood.—I should speak
So faintly; with such fear to grieve her heart,
She'd not believe it earnest.

Ant. Therefore; therefore
Thou only, thou art fit: think thy self me,
And when thou speak'st (but let it first be long)
Take off the edge from every sharper sound,
And let our parting be as gently made
As other Loves begin: wilt thou do this?

Dolla. What you have said, so sinks into my Soul,
That, if I must speak, I shall speak just so.

Ant. I leave you then to your sad task: Farewel.
I sent her word to meet you. (*Goes to the door, and comes back.*)
I forgot;

Let her be told, I'll make her peace with mine:
Her Crown and Dignity shall be preserv'd,
If I have pow'r with *Cæsar*.—— O, be sure
To think on that.

Dolla. Fear not, I will remember.

[*Antony goes again to the door, and comes back.*

Ant. And tell her, too, how much I was constrain'd;
I did not this, but with extreamest force:
Desire her not to hate my memory,
For I still cherish hers;—— insist on that:

Dolla. Trust me, I'll not forget it.

Ant. Then that's all.

(*Goes out, and returns again.*)

Wilt thou forgive my fondness this once more?
Tell her, tho' we shall never meet again,
If I should hear she took another Love,
The news would break my heart.— Now I must go;
For every time I have return'd, I feel
My Soul more tender; and my next command
Would be to bid her stay, and ruine both.

Exit.

Dolla. Men are but Children of a larger growth,
Our appetites as apt to change as theirs,
And full as craving too, and full as vain;
And yet the Soul, shut up in her dark room,
Viewing so clear abroad, at home sees nothing;
But, like a Mole in Earth, busie and blind,
Works all her folly up, and casts it outward
To the Worlds open view: thus I discover'd,
And blam'd the love of ruin'd *Antony*;
Yet wish that I were he, to be so ruin'd.

Enter Ventidius above.

Ven. Alone? and talking to himself? concern'd too?
Perhaps my ghes is right; he lov'd her once,
And may pursue it still.

Dolla. O Friendship! Friendship!
I canst thou answer this; and Reason, worse:
Unfaithful in th' attempt; hopeless to win;
And, if I win, undone: meer madness all.
And yet th' occasion's fair. What injury,
To him, to wear the Robe which he throws by?

Ven.

Ven. None, none at all. This happens as I wish,
To ruine her yet more with *Antony*.

*Enter Cleopatra, talking with Alexas, Charmion,
Iras on the other side.*

Dolla. She comes! What charms have sorrow on that face!
Sorrow seems pleas'd to dwell with so much sweetness;
Yet, now and then, a melancholy smile
Breaks loose, like Lightning, in a Winter's night,
And shows a moments day.

Ven. If she should love him too! Her Eunuch there!
That *Porcupisce* bodes ill weather. Draw, draw nearer,
Sweet Devil, that I may hear.

Alex. Believe me; try

[*Dollabella goes over to Charmion
and Iras; seems to talk with them.*]

To make him jealous; jealousy is like
A polish'd Glass held to the lips when life's in doubt:
If there be breath, 'twill catch the damp and show it.

Cleop. I grant you jealousy's a proof of love,
But 'tis a weak and unavailing Med'cine;
It puts out the disease, and makes it show,
But has no pow'r to cure.

Alex. 'Tis your last remedy, and strongest too:
And then this *Dollabella*, who so fit
To practice on? He's handsom, valiant, young,
And looks as he were laid for Nature's bait
To catch weak Womens eyes.
He stands already more than half suspected
Of loving you: the least kind word, or glance,
You give this Youth, will kindle him with love:
Then, like a burning Vessel set adrift,
You'll send him down amain before the wind,
To fire the heart of jealous *Antony*.

Cleop. Can I do this? Ah no; my love's so true,
That I can neither hide it where it is,
Nor show it where it is not. Nature meant me
A Wife, a silly harmless household Dove,
Fond without art; and kind without deceit;
But Fortune, that has made a Mistress of me,
Hast thrust me out to the wide World, unfurnish'd

Of falshood to be happy.

Alex. Force your self.

Th' event will be, your Lover will return

Doubly desirous to possess the good

Which once he fear'd to lose.

Cleop. I must attempt it;

But Oh with what regret! *Exit Alex. (She comes up to Dolabella.)*

Ven. So, now the Scene draws near; they're in my reach.

Cleop. to Dol. Discouraging with my Women! Might not I
Share in your entertainment?

Char. You have been

The Subject of it, Madam.

Cleop. How; and how?

Iras. Such praises of your beauty!

Cleop. Meer Poetry.

Your Roman Wits, your *Gallus* and *Tibullus*,

Have taught you this from *Cithæris* and *Delia*.

Dolla. Those Roman Wits have never been in *Egypt*,
Cithæris and *Delia* else had been unsung:

I, who have seen —— had I been born a Poet,
Should chuse a nobler name.

Cleop. You flatter me.

But, 'tis your Nation's vice: all of your Country
Are flatterers, and all false. Your Friend's like you.

I'm sure he sent you not to speak these words.

Dolla. No, Madam; yet he sent me ——

Cleop. Well, he sent you ——

Dolla. Of a less pleasing errand.

Cleop. How less pleasing?

Less to your self, or me?

Dolla. Madam, to both;

For you must mourn, and I must grieve to cause it.

Cleop. You, *Charmion*, and your Fellow, stand at distance.

(*Aside.*) Hold up, my Spirits.---Well, now your mournful matter;
For I'm prepar'd, perhaps can ghes it too.

Dolla. I wish you would; for 'tis a thankless office
To tell ill news: and I, of all your Sex,
Most fear displeasing you.

Cleop. Of all your Sex,

I soonest could forgive you, if you should.

Ven. Most delicate advances! Woman! Woman!
Dear damn'd, inconstant Sex!

Cleop. In the first place,
I am to be forsaken; is't not so?

Dolla. I wish I could not answer to that question.

Cleop. Then pass it o'er, because it troubles you:
I should have been more griev'd another time.
Next, I'm to lose my Kingdom.— Farewel, *Egypt.*
Yet, is there any more?

Dolla. Madam, I fear
Your too deep sense of grief has turn'd your reason.

Cleop. No, no, I'm not run mad; I can bear Fortune:
And Love may be expell'd by other Love,
As Poysons are by Poysons.

Dolla. —You o'erjoy me, Madam,
To find your griefs so moderately born:
You've heard the worst; all are not false, like him.

Cleop. No; Heav'n forbid they should.

Dolla. Some men are constant.

Cleop. And constancy deserves reward, that's certain.

Dolla. Deserves it not; but give it leave to hope.

Ven. I'll swear thou hast my leave. I have enough:
But how to manage this! Well, I'll consider. *Exit.*

Dolla. I came prepar'd,
To tell you heavy news; news, which I thought,
Would fright the blood from your pale cheeks to hear:
But you have met it with a cheerfulness
That makes my task more easie; and my tongue,
Which on anothers message was employ'd,
Would gladly speak its own.

Cleop. Hold, *Dollabella.*

First tell me, were you chosen by my Lord?
Or sought you this employment?

Dolla. He pick'd me out; and, as his bosom-friend,
He charg'd me with his words.

Cleop. The message then
I know was tender, and each accent smooth,
To mollifie that rugged word *Depart.*

Dolla. Oh, you mistake: he chose the hardest words,
 With fiery eyes, and with contracted brows,
 He coynd his face in the severest stamp:
 And fury, shook his Fabrick like an Earthquake;
 He heav'd for vent, and burst like bellowing *Ætna*,
 In sounds scarce humane, "Hence, away for ever:
 "Let her begone, the blot of my renown,
 "And bane of all my hopes:

[*All the time of this speech,*
Cleop. seems more and more concern'd,
till she sinks quite down.

"Let her be driv'n as far as men can think
 "From Mans commerce: She'll poyson to the Center.

Cleop. Oh, I can bear no more!

Dolla. Help, help: Oh Wretch! Oh cursed, cursed Wretch!
 What have I done?

Char. Help, chafe her Temples, *Iras.*

Iras. Bend, bend her forward quickly.

Char. Heav'n be prais'd,
 She comes again.

Cleop. Oh, let him not approach me.
 Why have you brought me back to this loath'd Being,
 Th' abode of Falshood, violated Vows,
 And injur'd Love? For pity, let me go;
 For, if there be a place of long repose,
 I'm sure I want it. My disdainful Lord
 Can never break that quiet; nor awake
 The sleeping Soul, with hollowing in my Tomb
 Such words as fright her hence, Unkind, unkind.

Dolla. kneeling. Believe me, 'tis against my self I speak,
 That sure deserves belief; I injur'd him:
 My Friend ne'er spoke those words. Oh, had you seen
 How often he came back, and every time
 With something more obliging and more kind,
 To add to what he said; what dear Farewels;
 How almost vanquisht by his love he parted,
 And lean'd to what unwillingly he left:
 I, Traitor as I was, for love of you,
 (But what can you not do, who made me false!)
 I forg'd that lye; for whose forgiveness kneels

This self-accus'd, self-punish'd Criminal,

Cleop. With how much ease believe we what we wish!

Rise, *Dollabella*; if you have been guilty,

I have contributed, and too much love

Has made me guilty too.

Th' advance of kindness which I made, was feign'd,

To call back fleeting love by jealousy;

But 'twould not last. Oh, rather let me lose

Than so ignobly trifle with his heart.

Dolla. I find your breast fenc'd round from humane reach,

Transparent as a Rock of solid Crystal;

Seen through, but never pierc'd. My Friend, my Friend!

What endless treasure hast thou thrown away,

And scatter'd, like an Infant, in the Ocean,

Vain sums of Wealth which none can gather thence.

Cleop. Could you not beg

An hours admittance to his private ear?

Like one who wanders through long barren Wilds,

And yet foreknows no hospitable Inn

Is near to succour hunger,

Eats his fill, before his painful march:

So would I feed a while my famish'd eyes

Before we part; for I have far to go,

If death be far, and never must return.

Ventidius, with Octavia, behind.

Ven. From hence you may discover—— Oh, sweet, sweet!

Would you indeed? the pretty hand in earnest? [*Takes her hand.*]

Dolla. I will, for this reward.—— Draw it not back,

'Tis all I e'er will beg.

Ven. They turn upon us.

Octav. What quick eyes has guilt!

Ven. Seem not to have observ'd 'em, and go on.

They enter.

Dolla. Saw you the Emperor, *Ventidius*? *Ven.* No.

I sought him; but I heard that he was private,

None with him, but *Hipparchus* his Freedman.

Dolla. Know you his bus'ness?

Ven. Giving him Instructions,

And Letters, to his Brother *Cæsar*.

Dolla. Well,
He must be found.

Exit Dol. and Cleop.

Oſtav. Moſt glorious impudence!

Ven. She look'd methought

As ſhe would ſay, Take your old man, *Oſtavia*;

Thank you, I'm better here.

Well, but what uſe

Make we of this diſcovery?

Oſtav. Let it die.

Ven. I pity *Dollabella*; but ſhe's dangerous:

Her eyes have pow'r beyond *Theſſalian* Charms

To draw the Moon from Heav'n; for Eloquence,

The Sea-green Syrens taught her voice their flatt'ry;

And, while ſhe ſpeaks, Night ſteals upon the Day,

Unmark'd of thoſe that hear: Then ſhe's ſo charming,

Age buds at ſight of her, and ſwells to youth:

The holy Priests gaze on her when ſhe ſmiles;

And with heav'd hands forgetting gravity,

They bleſs her wanton eyes: Even I who hate her,

With a malignant joy behold ſuch beauty;

And, while I curſe, deſire it. *Anthony*

Must needs have ſome remains of paſſion ſtill,

Which may ferment into a worſe relapſe,

If now not fully cur'd. I know, this minute,

With *Cæſar* he's endeavouring her peace.

Oſtav. You have prevail'd:—but for a farther purpoſe (*Walks off.*)

I'll prove how he will reliſh this diſcovery.

What, make a Strumpet's peace! it ſwells my heart:

It muſt not, ſha' not be.

Ven. His Guards appear.

Let me begin, and you ſhall ſecond me.

Enter Antony.

Ant. *Oſtavia*, I was looking you, my love:

What, are your Letters ready? I have giv'n

My laſt Inſtructions.

Oſtav. Mine, my Lord, are written.

Ant. *Ventidius!*

[*Drawing him aſide.*]

Ven. My Lord?

Ant. A word in private.

When

When saw you *Dollabella* ?

Ven. Now, my Lord,
He parted hence ; and *Cleopatra* with him.

Ant. Speak softly. 'Twas by my command he went,
To bear my last farewell.

Ven. aloud. It look'd indeed
Like your farewell:

Ant. More softly. ——— My farewell ?
What secret meaning have you in those words
Of my Farewell ? He did it by my Order.

Ven. aloud. Then he obey'd your Order. I suppose
You bid him do it with all gentleness,
All kindness, and all ——— love:

Ant. How she mourn'd,
The poor forsaken Creature !

Ven. She took it as she ought ; she bore your parting
As she did *Cæsar's*, as she would anothers,
Were a new Love to come.

Ant. aloud. Thou dost belye her ;
Most basely, and maliciously belye her:

Ven. I thought not to displease you ; I have done.

Octav. coming up. You seem disturb'd, my Lord.

Ant. A very trifle.

Retire, my Love.

Ven. It was indeed a trifle.

He sent ———.

Ant. angrily. No more. Look how thou disobey'st me ;
Thy life shall answer it.

Octav. Then 'tis no trifle.

Ven. to Octav. 'Tis less ; a very nothing : you too saw it,
As well as I, and therefore 'tis no secret.

Ant. She saw it !

Ven. Yes : she saw young *Dollabella* ———

Ant. Young *Dollabella* !

Ven. Young, I think him young,
And handsome too ; and so do others think him.
But what of that ? He went by your command,
Indeed 'tis probable, with some kind message ;
For she receiv'd it graciously ; she smil'd :

And

And then he grew familiar with her hand,
 Squeez'd it, and worry'd it with ravenous kisses;
 She blush'd, and sigh'd, and smil'd, and blush'd again;
 At last she took occasion to talk softly,
 And brought her cheek up close, and lean'd on his:
 At which, he whisper'd kisses back on hers;
 And then she cry'd aloud, That constancy
 Should be rewarded.

Octav. This I saw and heard.

Ant. What Woman was it, whom you heard and saw
 So playful with my Friend!

Not *Cleopatra*?

Ven. Ev'n she, my Lord!

Ant. My *Cleopatra*?

Ven. Your *Cleopatra*;

Dollabella's Cleopatra:

Every Man's *Cleopatra*.

Ant. Thou ly'st.

Ven. I do not lye, my Lord.

Is this so strange? Should Mistresses be left,
 And not provide against a time of change?
 You know she's not much us'd to lonely nights.

Ant. I'll think no more on't.

I know 'tis false, and see the plot betwixt you.
 You needed not have gone this way, *Octavia*.
 What harms it you that *Cleopatra's* just?

She's mine no more. I see; and I forgive:

Urge it no farther, Love.

Octav. Are you concern'd
 That she's found false?

Ant. I should be, were it so;

For, tho' 'tis past, I would not that the World
 Should tax my former choice: That I lov'd one
 Of so light note; but I forgive you both.

Ven. What has my age deserv'd, that you should think
 I would abuse your ears with perjury?
 If Heav'n be true, she's false.

Ant. Tho' Heav'n and Earth
 Should witness it, I'll not believe her tainted.

Ven. I'll bring you then a Witness

From Hell to prove her so. Nay, go not back; [*Seeing Alexas*
just entering, and starting back.

For stay you must and shall.

Alex. What means my Lord?

Ven. To make you do what most you hate; speak truth.

You are of *Cleopatra's* private Counsel,
Of her Bed-Counsel, her lascivious hours;
Are conscious of each nightly change she makes,
And watch her, as *Chaldeans* do the Moon,
Can tell what Signs she passes through, what day.

Alex. My Noble Lord.

Ven. My most Illustrious Pandar,

No fine set Speech, no Cadence, no turn'd Periods,
But a plain home-spun Truth, is what I ask:
I did, my self, o'erhear your Queen make love
To *Dollabella*. Speak; for I will know,
By your confession, what more past betwixt 'em;
How near the bus'ness draws to your employment;
And when the happy hour.

Ant. Speak truth, *Alexas*, whether it offend
Or please *Ventidius*, care not: justify
Thy injur'd Queen from malice: dare his worst.

Off. aside. See, how he gives him courage! how he fears
To find her false! and shuts his eyes to truth,
Willing to be misled!

Alex. As far as love may plead for Woman's frailty,
Urg'd by desert and greatness of the Lover;
So far (*Divine Octavia!*) may my Queen
Stand ev'n excus'd to you, for loving him,
Who is your Lord: so far, from brave *Ventidius*,
May her past actions hope a fair report.

Ant. 'Tis well, and truly spoken: mark, *Ventidius*.

Alex. To you, most Noble Emperor her strong passion
Stands not excus'd, but wholl justify'd.
Her Beauty's charms alone, without her Crown,
From *Ind* and *Meroe* drew the distant Vows
Of fighting Kings; and at her feet were laid
The Scepters of the Earth, expos'd on heaps,

To choose where she would Reign :
 She thought a *Roman* only could deserve her ;
 And, of all *Romans*, only *Antony*.
 And, to be less than Wife to you, disdain'd
 Their lawful passion.

Ant. 'Tis but truth.

Alex. And yet, tho' love, and your unmatch'd desert,
 Have drawn her from the due regard of Honor,
 At last, Heav'n open'd her unwilling eyes
 To see the wrongs she offer'd fair *Octavia*,
 Whose holy Bed she lawlessly usurpt,
 The sad effects of this improsperous War,
 Confirm'd those pious thoughts.

Ven. aside. O, wheel you there?
 Observe him now ; the Man begins to mend,
 And talk substantial reason. Fear not, Eunuch,
 The Emperor has giv'n thee leave to speak.

Alex. Else had I never dar'd t' offend his ears
 With what the last necessity has urg'd
 On my forsaken Mistress ; yet I must not
 Presume to say her heart is wholly alter'd.

Ant. No, dare not for thy life, I charge thee dare not,
 Pronounce that fatal word.

Octav. aside. Must I bear this ? good Heav'n, afford me patience.

Ven. On, sweet Eunuch ; my dear half man, proceed.

Alex. Yet *Dollabella*

Has lov'd her long, he, next my God-like Lord,
 Deserves her best ; and should she meet his passion,
 Rejected, as she is, by him she lov'd——

Ant. Hence, from my sight ; for I can bear no more :
 Let Furies drag thee quick to Hell ; let all
 The longer damn'd have rest ; each torturing hand
 Do thou employ, till *Cleopatra* comes,
 Then joyn thou too, and help to torture her.

*Exit Alexas,
 thrust out by Antony.*

Octav. 'Tis not well,
 Indeed, my Lord, 'tis much unkind to me,
 To show this passion, this extream concernment
 For an abandon'd, faithless Prostitute.

Ant. *Octavia*, leave me : I am much disorder'd.

Leave me, I say.

Octav. My Lord ?

Ant. I bid you leave me.

Ven. Obey him, Madam : best withdraw a while ;

And see how this will work.

Octav. Wherein have I offended you, my Lord,

That I am bid to leave you ? Am I false,

Or infamous ? Am I a *Cleopatra* ?

Were I she,

Base as she is, you would not bid me leave you ;

But hang upon my neck, take slight excuses,

And fawn upon my falshood.

Ant. 'Tis too much,

Too much, *Octavia* ; I am prest with sorrows :

Too heavy to be born ; and you add more :

I would retire, and recollect what's left

Of Man within, to aid me.

Octav. You would mourn

In private, for your Love, who has betray'd you ;

You did but half return to me : your kindness

Linger'd behind with her. I hear, my Lord,

You make Conditions for her,

And would include her Treaty. Wondrous proofs

Of love to me !

Ant. Are you my Friend, *Ventidius* ?

Or are you turn'd a *Dollabella* too,

And let this Fury loose ?

Ven. Oh, be advis'd,

Sweet Madam, and retire.

Octav. Yes, I will go ; but never to return !

You shall no more be haunted with this Fury.

My Lord, my Lord, love will not always last,

When urg'd with long unkindness, and disdain ;

Take her again whom you prefer to me ;

She stays but to be call'd. Poor cozen'd Man !

Let a feign'd parting give her back your heart,

Which a feign'd love first got ; for injur'd me,

Tho' my just sense of wrongs forbid my stay,

My duty shall be yours.

To the dear pledges of our former love,
My tenderneſs and care ſhall be transferr'd,
And they ſhall cheer, by turns, my Widow'd Nights :
So, take my laſt farewel ; for I deſpair
To have you whole, and ſcorn to take you half.

Exit:

Ven. I combat Heav'n, which blaſts my beſt deſigns :
My laſt attempt muſt be to win her back ;
But Oh, I fear in vain.

Exit.

Ant. Why was I fram'd with this plain honeſt heart,
Which knows not to diſguiſe its griefs and weakneſs,
But bears its workings outward to the World ?
I ſhould have kept the mighty anguiſh in,
And forc'd a ſmile at *Cleopatra's* falſhood :
Oſavia had believ'd it, and had ſtaid ;
But I am made a ſhallow-forded Stream,
Seen to the bottom : all my clearneſs ſcorn'd,
And all my faults expoſ'd ! ————— See, where he comes

Enter Dollabella.

Who has prophan'd the Sacred Name of Friend,
And worn it into vileneſs !
With how ſecure a brow, and ſpecious form
He guilds the ſecret Villain ! Sure that face
Was meant for honeſty ; but Heav'n miſ-match'd it,
And furniſh'd Treason out with Natures pomp,
To make its work more eaſie.

Dolla. O, my Friend !

Ant. Well, *Dollabella*, you perform'd my meſſage ?

Dolla. I did, unwillingly.

Ant. Unwillingly ?

Was it ſo hard for you to bear our parting ?
You ſhould have wiſht it.

Dolla. Why ?

Ant. Becauſe you love me.

And ſhe receiv'd my meſſage, with as true,
With as unfeign'd a ſorrow, as you brought it ?

Dolla. She loves you, ev'n to madneſs.

Ant. Oh, I know it.

You, *Dollabella*, do not better know

How much she loves me. And should I
Forfake this Beauty? This all-perfect Creature?

Dolla. I could not, were she mine.

Ant. And yet you first

Perfwaded me: how come you alter'd since?

Dolla. I said at first I was not fit to go;

I could not hear her sighs, and see her tears,
But pity must prevail: and so, perhaps,
It may again with you; for I have promis'd
That she should take her last farewell: and, see,
She comes to claim my word.

Enter Cleopatra.

Ant. False Dollabella!

Dolla. What's false, my Lord?

Ant. Why, Dollabella's false,

And *Cleopatra's* false; both false and faithless.
Draw near, you well-join'd wickedness, you Serpents,
Whom I have, in my kindly bosom, warm'd
Till I am stung to death.

Dolla. My Lord, have I
Deserv'd to be thus us'd?

Cleop. Can Heav'n prepare
A newer Torment? Can it find a Curse
Beyond our separation?

Ant. Yes, if Fate

Be just, much greater: Heav'n should be ingenious
In punishing such crimes. The rowling Stone,
And gnawing Vulture, were slight pains, invented
When *Jove* was young, and no examples known
Of mighty ills; but you have ripen'd sin
To such a monstrous growth, 'twill pose the Gods
To find an equal Torture. Two, two such,
Oh there's no farther name, two such——— to me,
To me, who lock'd my Soul within your breasts,
Had no desires, no joys, no life, but you;
When half the Globe was mine, I gave it you
In Dowry with my heart; I had no use,
No fruit of all, but you: a Friend and Mistress
Was what the World could give. Oh, *Cleopatra!*

Oh, *Dollabella*! how could you betray
This tender heart, which with an Infant-fondness
Lay lull'd betwixt your bosoms, and there slept
Secure of injur'd Faith?

Dolla. If she has wrong'd you,
Heav'n, Hell, and You revenge it.

Ant. If she wrong'd me,
Thou wouldst evade thy part of guilt; but swear
Thou lov'st not her.

Dolla. Not so as I love you.

Ant. Not so! Swear, swear, I say, thou dost not love her.

Dolla. No more than Friendship will allow.

Ant. No more?

Friendship allows thee nothing: thou art perjur'd,
And yet thou didst not swear thou lov'dst her not;
But not so much, no more. Oh trifling Hypocrite,
Who dar'st not own to her thou dost not love,
Nor own to me thou dost! *Ventidius* heard it;
Octavia saw it.

Cleop. They are enemies.

Ant. *Alexas* is not so: he, he confess't it;
He, who, next Hell, best knew it, he avow'd it.
(*To Dol.*) Why do I seek a proof beyond your self?
You whom I sent to bear my last Farewel,
Return'd to plead her stay.

Dolla. What shall I answer?

If to have lov'd be guilt, then I have sinn'd;
But if to have repented of that love
Can wash away my crime, I have repented.
Yet, if I have offended past forgiveness,
Let not her suffer: she is innocent.

Cleop. Ah, what will not a Woman do who loves!
What means will she refuse, to keep that heart
Where all her joys are plac'd! 'Twas I encourag'd,
'Twas I blew up the fire that scorch'd his Soul,
To make you jealous; and by that regain you.
But all in vain; I could not counterfeit:
In spite of all the damms, my love broke o'er,
And drown'd my heart again: Fate took th' occasion;

And thus one minutes feigning has destroy'd
My whole life's truth.

Ant. Thin Cobweb Arts of Falshood ;
Seen, and broke through at first.

Dolla. Forgive your Mistress.

Cleop. Forgive your Friend.

Ant. You have convinc'd your selves,
You plead each others Cause : What Witness have you,
That you but meant to raise my jealousy ?

Cleop. Our selves, and Heav'n.

Ant. Guilt witnesses for guilt. Hence, Love and Friendships ;
You have no longer place in humane breasts,
These two have driv'n you out : avoid my sight ;
I would not kill the Man whom I lov'd ;
And cannot hurt the Woman ; but avoid me,
I do not know how long I can be tame ;
For, if I stay one minute more to think
How I am wrong'd, my Justice and Revenge
Will cry so loud within me, that my pity
Will not be heard for either.

Dolla. Heav'n has but :

Our sorrow for our sins ; and then delights
To pardon erring Man : sweet Mercy seems
Its darling Attribute, which limits Justice ;
As if there were degrees in Infinite ;
And Infinite would rather want perfection
Than punish to extent.

Ant. I can forgive

A Foe ; but not a Mistress, and a Friend :
Treason is there in its most horrid shape,
Where trust is greatest : and the Soul resign'd
Is stabb'd by its own Guards : I'll hear no more ;
Hence from my sight, for ever.

Cleop. How ? for ever !

I cannot go one moment from your sight,
And must I go for ever ?
My joys, my only joys are center'd here :
What place have I to go to ? my own Kingdom ?
That I have lost for you : or to the Romans ?

They hate me for your sake : or must I wander
 The wide World o'er, a helpless, banish'd Woman,
 Banish'd for love of you ; banish'd from you ;
 I, there's the Banishment ! Oh hear me ; hear me,
 With strictest Justice : for I beg no favour :
 And if I have offended you, then kill me,
 But do not banish me.

Ant. I must not hear you.

I have a Fool within me takes your part ;
 but Honour stops my ears.

Cleop. For pity hear me !

Wou'd you cast off a Slave who follow'd you,
 Who crouch'd beneath your Spurn ? — He has no pity !
 See, if he gives one tear to my departure ;
 One look, one kind farewell : Oh Iron heart !
 Let all the Gods look down, and judge betwixt us,
 If he did ever love !

Anth. No more : *Alexas* !

Dolla. A perjurd Villain !

Anth. to Cleop. Your *Alexas* ; yours.

Cleop. O'twas his plot : his ruinous design
 T'ingage you in my love by jealousy.
 Hear him ; confront him with me ; let him speak.

Anth. I have ; I have.

Cleop. And if he clear me not —

Ant. Your Creature ! one who hangs upon your smiles !
 Watches your eye to say or to unsay
 Whate'er you please ! I am not to be mov'd.

Cleop. Then must we part ? Farewel, my cruel Lord,
 Th' appearance is against me ; and I go
 Unjustifi'd, for ever from your sight.
 How I have lov'd, you know ; how yet I love,
 My only comfort is, I know my self :
 I love you more, ev'n now you are unkind,
 Than when you lov'd me most ; so well, so truly,
 I'll never strive against it ; but die pleas'd
 To think you once were mine.

Ant. Good Heav'n, they weep at parting.
 Must I weep too ? that calls 'em innocent,

I must not weep; and yet I must, to think
 That I must not forgive.——
 Live; but live wretched, 'tis but just you shou'd,
 Who made me so: Live from each others sight:
 Let me not hear you meet: Set all the Earth,
 And all the Seas, betwixt your sunder'd Loves:
 View nothing common but the Sun and Skys:
 Now, all take several ways;
 And each your own sad fate with mine deplore;
 That you were false, and I could trust no more.

Exeunt severally.

ACT. V.

Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras.

Char. **B**E juster, Heav'n: such virtue punish'd thus,
 Will make us think that Chance rules all above,
 And shuffles, with a random hand, the Lots
 Which Man is forc'd to draw.

Cleop. I cou'd tear out these eyes, that gain'd his heart,
 And had not pow'r to keep it. O the curse
 Of doting on, ev'n when I find it Dotage!
 Bear witness, Gods, you heard him bid me go;
 You whom he mock'd with imprecating Vows
 Of promis'd Faith.—— I'll die, I will not bear it.
 You may hold me.——

*[She pulls out her Dagger,
 and they hold her.]*

But I can keep my breath; I can die inward,
 And choak this Love.

Enter Alexas.

Iras. Help, O *Alexas*, help!
 The Queen grows desperate, her Soul struggles in her,
 With all the Agonies of Love and Rage,
 And strives to force its passage.

Cleop. Let me go.
 Art thou there, Traitor!——

O, for a little breath, to vent my rage!
 Give, give me way, and let me loose upon him.
Alex. Yes, I deserve it, for my ill-tim'd truth.
 Was it for me to prop
 The Ruins of a falling Majesty?
 To place my self beneath the mighty flaw,
 Thus to be crush'd, and pounded into Atomes,
 By its o'erwhelming weight? 'Tis too presuming
 For Subjects, to preserve that wilful pow'r
 Which courts its own destruction.

Cleop. I wou'd reason
 More calmly with you. Did not you o'er-rule,
 And force my plain, direct, and open love
 Into these crooked paths of jealousy?
 Now, what's th' event? *Othavia* is remov'd;
 But *Cleopatra's* banish'd. Thou, thou, Villain,
 Has push'd my Boat, to open Sea; to prove,
 At my sad cost, if thou canst steer it back.
 It cannot be; I'm lost too far; I'm ruin'd:
 Hence, thou Impostor, Traitor, Monster, Devil. ———
 I can no more: thou, and my griefs, have sunk
 Me down so low, that I want voice to curse thee.

Alex. Suppose some shipwrack'd Seaman near the shore,
 Dropping and faint, with climbing up the Cliff,
 If, from above, some charitable hand
 Pull him to safety, hazarding himself
 To draw the others weight; wou'd he look back
 And curse him for his pains? The case is yours;
 But one step more, and you have gain'd the height.

Cleop. Sunk, never more to rise.

Alex. *Othavia's* gone, and *Dollabella* banish'd.
 Believe me, Madam, *Antony* is yours.
 His heart was never lost; but started off
 To Jealousie, Love's last retreat and covert:
 Where it lies hid in Shades, watchful in silence,
 And list'ning for the sound that calls it back,
 Some other, any man, ('tis so advanc'd)
 May perfect this unfinish'd work, which I
 (Unhappy only to my self) have left

So easie to his hand.

Cleop. Look well thou do't ; else——

Alex. Else, what your silence threatens.—— *Antony*

Is mounted up the *Pharos* ; from whose Turret,
He stands surveying our *Egyptian* Gallies,
Engag'd with *Cæsar's* Fleet : now Death, or Conquest.
If the first happen, Fate acquits my promise :
If we o'ercome, the Conqueror is yours.

A distant Shout within.

Char. Have comfort, Madam : did you mark that Shout ?

Second Shout nearer.

Iras. Hark ; they redouble it.

Alex. 'Tis from the Port.

The loudness shows it near : good news, kind Heavens.

Cleop. *Osrís* make it so.

Enter Serapion.

Serap. Where, where's the Queen ?

Alex. How frightfully the holy Coward stares !

As if not yet recover'd of th' assault,
When all his Gods, and what's more dear to him,
His Offerings were at stake.

Serap. O horror, horror !

Egypt has been ; our latest hour is come :

The Queen of Nations from her ancient seat,

Is sunk for ever in the dark Abyss :

Time has unrowl'd her Glories to the last,

And now clos'd up the Volume.

Cleop. Be more plain :

Say, whence thou com'st, (though Fate is in thy face,

Which from thy haggard eyes looks wildly out,

And threatens ere thou speak'st.)

Serap. I came from *Pharos* ;

From viewing (spare me and imagine it)

Our Lands last hope, your Navy.——

Cleop. Vanquish'd ?

Serap. No.

They fought not.

Cleop. Then they fled.

Serap. Nor that, I saw ;

With *Antony*, your well-appointed Fleet
 Row out; and thrice he wav'd his hand on high,
 And thrice with cheerful cries they shouted back:
 'Twas then, false Fortune, like a fawning Strumpet,
 About to leave the Bankrupt Prodigal,
 With a dissembled smile wou'd kiss at parting,
 And flatter to the last; the well-tim'd Oars
 Now dipt from every bank, now smoothly run
 To meet the Foe; and soon indeed they met,
 But not as Foes. In few, we saw their Caps
 On either side thrown up; th' *Egyptian* Gallies
 (Receiv'd like Friends) past through, and fell behind:
 The *Roman* rear: and now, they all come forward,
 And ride within the Port.

Cleop. Enough, *Serapion*:
 I've heard my doom. This needed not, you Gods:
 When I lost *Antony*, your work was done;
 'Tis but superfluous malice. Where's my Lord?
 How bears he this last blow?

Serap. His fury cannot be express'd by words:
 Thrice he attempted headlong to have falln
 Full on his foes, and aim'd at *Caesar's* Galley:
 With-held, he raves on you; cries, He's betray'd
 Should he now find you.——

Alex. Shun him, seek your safety,
 Till you can clear your innocence.

Cleop. I'll stay.

Alex. You must not, haste you to your Monument,
 While I make speed to *Caesar*.

Cleop. *Caesar*! No,
 I have no business with him.

Alex. I can work him
 To spare your life, and let this madman perish:

Cleop. Base fawning Wretch! wouldst thou betray him too?
 Hence from my sight, I will not hear a Traytor;

'Twas thy design brought all this ruine on us;

Serapion, thou art honest; counsel me::

But haste, each moment's precious.

Serap. Retire; you must not yet see *Antony*.

He who began this mischief,
 'Tis just he tempt the danger: let him clear you;
 And, since he offer'd you his servile tongue,
 To gain a poor precarious life from *Cæsar*,
 Let him expose that fawning eloquence,
 And speak to *Antony*.

Alex. O Heavens! I dare not,
 I meet my certain death.

Cleop. Slave, thou deserv'st it.
 Not that I fear my Lord, will I avoid him;
 I know him noble: when he banish'd me,
 And thought me false, he scorn'd to take my life;
 But I'll be justifi'd, and then die with him.

Alex. O pity me, and let me follow you.

Cleop. To death, if thou stir hence. Speak, if thou canst,
 Now for thy life, which basely thou wou'dst save;
 While mine I prize at this. Come, good *Serapion*.

Exeunt Cleop. Serap. Char. Iras.

Alex. O that I less cou'd fear to lose this being,
 Which, like a Snow-ball, in my coward hand,
 The more 'tis grasp'd, the faster melts away.
 Poor Reason! what a wretched aid art thou!
 For still, in spite of thee,
 These two long Lovers, Soul and Body, dread
 Their final separation. Let me think:
 What can I say, to save my self from death?

No matter what becomes of *Cleopatra*.

Ant. within. Which way? where?

Ven. within. This leads to th' Monument.

Alex. Ah me! I hear him; yet I'm unprepar'd:

My gift of lying's gone;

And this Court-Devil, which I so oft have rais'd,

Forfakes me at my need! I dare not stay;

Yet cannot far go hence.

Exit.

Enter Antony and Ventidius.

Ant. O happy *Cæsar*! Thou hast men to lead:

Think not 'tis thou hast conquer'd *Antony*;

But *Rome* has conquer'd *Egypt*. I'm betray'd!

Ven. Curse on this treach'rous Traia!

Their Soil and Heav'n infect 'em all with baseness:
And their young Souls come tainted to the World
With the first breath they draw.

Ant. Th' original Villain sure no God created;
He was a Bastard of the Sun, by *Nile*,
Ap'd into Man; with all his Mother's Mud
Crusted about his Soul.

Ven. The Nation is
One Universal Traitor; and their Queen
The very Spirit and Extract of 'em all.

Ant. Is there yet left
A possibility of aid from Valor?
Is there one God unsworn to my Destruction?
The least unmortgag'd hope? for, if there be,
Methinks I cannot fall beneath the Fate
Of such a Boy as *Cæsar*.

The World's one half is yet in *Antony*;
And, from each limb of it that's hew'd away,
The Soul comes back to me.

Ven. There yet remain
Three Legions in the Town: The last assault
Lopt off the rest: if death be your design,
(As I must wish it now) these are sufficient
To make a heap about us of dead Foes,
An honest Pile for burial.

Ant. They're enough.
We'll not divide our Stars; but side by side
Fight emulous: and with malicious eyes
Survey each other's acts: so every death
Thou giv'st, I'll take on me, as a just debt,
And pay thee back a Soul.

Ven. Now you shall see I love you. Not a word
Of chiding more. - By my few hours of life,
I am so pleas'd with this brave *Roman* Fate,
That I wou'd not be *Cæsar*, to out-live you.
When we put off this flesh, and mount together,
I shall be shown to all th' *Etherial* crowd;
Lo, this is he who dy'd with *Antony*.

Ant. Who knows but we may pierce through all their Troops,
And

And reach my Veterans yet? 'Tis worth the tempting,
T' o'er-leap this Gulph of Fate,
And leave our wond'ring Destinies behind.

Enter Alexas, trembling.

Ven. See, see, that Villain;
See *Cleopatra* stamp't upon that face,
With all her cunning, all her arts of falshood!
How she looks out through those dissembling eyes!
How he has set his count'nance for deceit;
And promises a lye, before he speaks!
Let me dispatch him first.

(Drawing.)

Alex. O, spare me, spare me.

Ant. Hold; he's not worth your killing. On thy life,
(Which thou mayst keep, because I scorn to take it)
No syllable to justify thy Queen;
Save thy base tongue its office.

Alex. Sir, she's gone,
Where she shall never be molested more
By Love, or you.

Ant. Fled to her *Dollabella*!

Die, Traitor, I revoke my promise, die. *(Going to kill him.)*

Alex. O hold, she is not fled.

Ant. She is: my eyes
Are open to her falshood; my whole life
Has been a golden dream, of Love and Friendship.
But, now I wake, I'm like a Merchant, rows'd
From soft repose, to see his Vessel sinking,
And all his Wealth cast o'er. Ingrateful Woman!
Who follow'd me, but as the Swallow Summer,
Hatching her young ones in my kindly Beams,
Singing her flatteries to my morning wake;
But, now my Winter comes, she spreads her wings,
And seeks the Spring of *Caesar*.

Alex. Think not so:

Her Fortunes have, in all things, mixt with yours,
Had she betray'd her Naval force to *Rome*,
How easily might she have gone to *Caesar*,
Secure by such a bribe!

Ven. She sent it first,

To be more welcome after:

Ant. 'Tis too plain ;

Else wou'd she have appear'd, to clear her self.

Alex. Too fatally she has ; she could not bear
To be accus'd by you ; but shut her self
Within her Monument : look'd down, and sigh'd ;
While, from her unchang'd face, the silent tears
Dropt, as they had not leave, but stole their parting.
Some undistinguish'd words she inly murmur'd ;
At last, she rais'd her eyes ; and, with such looks
As dying *Lucrece* cast, _____

Ant. My heart forebodes. _____

Ven. All for the best : go on.

Alex. She snatch'd her Ponyard,
And, ere we cou'd prevent the fatal blow,
Plung'd it within her breast : then turn'd to me,
Go, bear my Lord (said she) my last Farewel ;
And ask him if he yet suspect my Faith,
More she was saying, but death rush'd betwixt.
She half pronounc'd your Name with her last breath,
And bury'd half within her.

Ven. Heav'n be prais'd.

Ant. Then art thou innocent, my poor dear Love ?
And art thou dead ?

O those two words ! their sound shou'd be divided :
Hadst thou been false, and dy'd ; or hadst thou liv'd,
And hadst been true _____, But Innocence and Death !
This shows not well above. Then what am I,
The Murderer of this Truth, this Innocence !
Thoughts cannot form themselves in words so horrid
As can express my guilt !

Ven. Is't come to this ? The Gods have been too gracious :
And thus you thank 'em for't.

Ant. to Alex. Why stay'st thou here ?

Is it for thee to spy upon my Soul,
And see its inward mourning ? Get thee hence ;
Thou art not worthy to behold, what now
Becomes a *Roman* Emperor to perform.

Alex. aside. He loves her still :

His grief betrays it. Good! The joy to find
 She's yet alive, compleats the reconcilment.
 I've sav'd my self, and her. But, Oh! the *Romans!*
 Fate comes too fast upon my Wit,
 Hunts me too hard, and meets me at each double:

Exit.

Ven. Wou'd she had dy'd a little sooner tho,
 Before *Octavia* went; you might have treated:
 Now 'twill look tame, and wou'd not be receiv'd.
 Come, rouze your self, and lets die warm together.

Ant. I will not fight: there's no more work for War.
 The bus'ness of my angry hours is done.

Ven. *Cæsar* is at your Gates.

Ant. Why, let him enter;
 He's welcom now.

Ven. What Lethargy has crept into your Soul?

Ant. 'Tis but a scorn of life, and just desire
 To free my self from bondage.

Ven. Do it bravely.

Ant. I will; but not by fighting. O, *Ventidius!*
 What shou'd I fight for now? My Queen is dead.
 I was but great for her; my Pow'r, my Empire,
 Were but my Merchandise to buy her love;
 And conquer'd Kings, my Factors. Now she's dead,
 Let *Cæsar* take the World, ———
 An Empty Circle, since the Jewel's gone
 Which made it worth my strife: my being's nauseous;
 For all the bribes of life are gone away.

Ven. Wou'd you be taken?

Ant. Yes, I wou'd be taken;
 But, as a *Roman* ought, dead, my *Ventidius!*
 For I'll convey my Soul from *Cæsar's* reach,
 And lay down life my self. 'Tis time the World
 Shou'd have a Lord, and know whom to obey.
 We two have kept its homage in suspence,
 And bent the Globe on whose each side we trod,
 Till it was dinted inwards: Let him walk
 Alone upon 't; I'm weary of my part.
 My Torch is out; and the World stands before me
 Like a black Desert, at th' approach of night:

I'll lay me down, and stray no farther on.

Ven. I cou'd be griev'd,
 But that I'll not out-live you: choose your death;
 For, I have seen him in such various shapes,
 I care not which I take: I'm only troubled
 The life I bear, is worn to such a rag,
 'Tis scarce worth giving. I cou'd with indeed
 We threw it from us with a better grace;
 That, like two Lyons taken in the Toils,
 We might at least thrust out our paws, and wound
 The Hunters that inclose us.

Ant. I have thought on't.

Ventidius, you must live.

Ven. I must not, Sir.

Ant. Wilt thou not live, to speak some good of me?
 To stand by my fair Fame, and guard th' approaches
 From the ill Tongues of Men?

Ven. Who shall guard mine,
 For living after you?

Ant. Say, I command it.

Ven. If we die well, our deaths will speak themselves,
 And need no living witness.

Ant. Thou hast lov'd me,
 And fain I wou'd reward thee: I must die;
 Kill me, and take the merit of my death
 To make thee Friends with *Cæsar*.

Ven. Thank your kindness,
 You said I lov'd you; and, in recompence,
 You bid me turn a Traitor: did I think
 You wou'd have us'd me thus? that I shou'd die
 With a hard thought of you?

Ant. Forgive me, *Roman*.

Since I have heard of *Cleopatra's* death,
 My reason bears no rule upon my tongue,
 But lets my thoughts break all at random out:
 I've thought better; do not deny me twice.

Ven. By Heav'n, I will not.
 Let it not be t' out-live you.

Ant. Kill me first,

And then die thou : for 'tis but just thou serve
Thy Friend, before thy self.

Ven. Give me your hand.

We soon shall meet again. Now, Farewel, Emperor. (*Embrace.*)

Methinks that word's too cold to be my last:

Since Death sweeps all distinctions, Farewel, Friend.

That's all. ———

I will not make a bus'ness of a trifle :

And yet I cannot look on you, and kill you ;

Pray turn your face.

Ant. I do : strike home be sure.

Ven. Home, as my Sword will reach.

(*Kills himself.*)

Ant. O, thou mistak'st;

That wound was none of thine : give it me back :

Thou robb'st me of my death.

Ven. I do indeed ;

But, think 'tis the first time I e'er deceiv'd you ;

If that may plead my pardon. And you, Gods,

Forgive me, if you will ; for I die perjur'd,

Rather than kill my Friend.

(*Dies.*)

Ant. Farewel. Ever my Leader, ev'n in death !

My Queen and thou have got the start of me,

And I'm the lag of Honour. ——— Gone so soon ?

Is death no more ? He us'd him carelessly,

With a familiar kindness : ere he knock'd,

Ran to the door, and took him in his arms,

As who shou'd say, Y'are welcome at all hours,

A Friend need give no warning. Books had spoil'd him ;

For all the Learn'd are Cowards by profession.

'Tis not worth

My farther thought ; for death, for ought I know,

Is but to think no more. Here's to be satisfi'd: (*Falls on his Sword.*)

I've mist my heart. O unperforming hand !

Thou never cou'dst have err'd in a worse time.

My Fortune jades me to the last ; and death,

Like a great Man, takes state, and makes me wait

For my admittance. ———

(*Trampling within.*)

Some perhaps from *Cæsar* :

If he shou'd find me living, and suspect

L

That

That I plaid booty with my life! I'll mend
My work, ere they can reach me. *(Rises upon his knees.)*

Enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras.

Cleop. Where is my Lord? where is he?

Char. There he lies,

And dead *Ventidius* by him.

Cleop. My fears were Prophets; I am come too late.

O that accurs'd *Alexas*! *(Runs to him.)*

Ant. Art thou living?

Or am I dead before I knew? and thou

The first kind Ghost that meets me?

Cleop. Help me seat him.

Send quickly, send for help. *(They place him in a Chair.)*

Ant. I am answer'd.

We live both. Sit thee down, my *Cleopatra*:

I'll make the most I can of life, to stay

A moment more with thee.

Cleop. How is it with you?

Ant. 'Tis as with a man

Removing in a hurry; all pack'd up,

But one dear Jewel that his haste forgot;

And he, for that, returns upon the spur:

So I come back, for thee.

Cleop. Too long, you Heav'ns, you have been cruel to me;

Now show your mended Faith, and give me back

His fleeting life.

Ant. It will not be, my Love.

I keep my Soul by force.

Say but thou art not false.

Cleop. 'Tis now too late

To say I'm true: I'll prove it, and die with you.

Unknown to me, *Alexas* feign'd my death:

Which, when I knew, I hasted, to prevent

This fatal consequence. My Fleet betray'd:

Both you and me.

Ant. And *Dollabella*.——

Cleop. Scarcè esteem'd before he lov'd; but hated now.

Ant. Enough: my life's not long enough for more.

Thou sayst thou wilt come after; I believe thee;

For I can now believe whate'er thou sayst,
That we may part more kindly.

Cleop. I will come:

Doubt not, my life, I'll come, and quickly too:
Cæsar shall triumph o'er no part of thee.

Ant. But grieve not, while thou stay'st
My last disastrous times:

Think we have had a clear and glorious day;
And Heav'n did kindly to delay the storm
Just till our close of ev'ning. Ten years love,
And not a moment lost, but all improv'd
To th' utmost joys: What Ages have we liv'd?
And now to die each others; and, so dying,
While hand in hand we walk in Groves below,
Whole Troops of Lovers Ghosts shall flock about us,
And all the Train be ours

Cleop. Your words are like the Notes of dying Swans,
Too sweet to last. Were there so many hours
For your unkindness, and not one for love?

Ant. No, not a minute. — This one kiss — more worth
Than all I leave to *Cæsar*. (*Dies.*)

Cleop. O, tell me so again,
And take ten thousand kisses, for that word.
My Lord, my Lord: speak, if you yet have being;
Sigh to me, if you cannot speak; or cast
One look: Do any thing that shows you live.

Iras. He's gone too far, to hear you;
And this you see, a lump of senseless Clay,
The leavings of a Soul.

Char. Remember, Madam,
He charg'd you not to grieve.

Cleop. And I'll obey him.
I have not lov'd a *Roman* not to know
What should become his Wife; his Wife, my *Charmion*;
For 'tis to that high Title I aspire,
And now I'll not die less. Let dull *Octavia*
Survive, to mourn him dead: my Nobler Fate
Shall knit our Spoufals with a tie too strong
For *Roman* Laws to break.

Iras. Will you then die?

Cleop. Why shou'dst thou make that question?

Iras. *Cæsar* is merciful.

Cleop. Let him be so

To those that want his mercy: my poor Lord
Made no such Cov'nant with him, to spare me
When he was dead. Yield me to *Cæsar's* pride?
What, to be led in triumph through the Streets,
A spectacle to base *Plebeian* eyes;
While some dejected Friend of *Antony's*,
Close in a corner, shakes his head, and mutters
A secret curse on her who ruin'd him?
I'll none of that.

Char. Whatever you resolve,
I'll follow ev'n to death.

Iras. I only fear'd

For you; but more shou'd fear to live without you!

Cleop. Why, now 'tis as it shou'd be. Quick, my Friends,
Dispatch; ere this, the Town's in *Cæsar's* hands:
My Lord looks down concern'd, and fears my stay,
Lest I shou'd be surpriz'd;
Keep him not waiting for his love too long.
You, *Charmion*, bring my Crown and richest Jewels,
With 'em, the Wreath of Victory I made
(Vain Augury!) for him who now lies dead;
You, *Iras*, bring the cure of all our ills.

Iras. The Aspicks, Madam?

Cleop. Must I bid you twice?

Exeunt Char. and Iras.

'Tis sweet to die, when they wou'd force life on me,
To rush into the dark aboad of death,
And seize him first; if he be like my Love,
He is not frightful sure.
We're now alone, in secrecie and silence;
And is not this like Lovers? I may kiss
These pale, cold lips; *Octavia* does not see me;
And, Oh! 'tis better far to have him thus,
Than see him in her arms. — O welcome, welcome;

Enter Charmion, Iras.

Char. What must be done?

Cleop.

Cleop. Short Ceremony, Friends ;
But yet it must be decent. First, this Laurel
Shall crown my Hero's Head : he fell not basely,
Nor left his Shield behind him. Only thou
Cou'dst triumph o'er thy self; and thou alone
Wert worthy so to triumph.

Char. To what end
These Ensigns of your Pomp and Royalty ?

Cleop. Dull, that thou art ! why, 'tis to meet my Love ;
As when I saw him first, on *Cydnos* bank,
All sparkling, like a Goddess ; so adorn'd,
I'll find him once again : my second Spousals
Shall match my first, in Glory. Haste, haste, both,
And dress the Bride of *Antony*.

Char. 'Tis done.

Cleop. Now seat me by my Lord. I claim this place ;
For I must conquer *Cæsar* too, like him,
And win my share o'th' World. Hail, you dear Relicks
Of my Immortal Love !
O let no Impious hand remove you hence ;
But rest for ever here : let *Egypt* give
His death that peace, which it deny'd his life.
Reach me the Casket,

Iras. Underneath the fruit the Aspick lies.

Cleop. putting aside the leaves. Welcom, thou kind Deceiver !
Thou best of Thieves ; who, with an easie key,
Dost open life, and, unperceiv'd by us,
Ev'n steal us from our selves : discharging so
Death's dreadful office, better than himself,
Touching our limbs so gently into slumber,
That Death stands by, deceiv'd by his own Image,
And thinks himself but Sleep.

Serap. within. The Queen, where is she ?
The Town is yielded, *Cæsar's* at the Gates.

Cleop. He comes too late t' invade the Rights of Death.
Haste, bare my Arm, and rouze the Serpent's fury. [*Holds out*
Coward Flesh—— *her Arm, and draws it back.*
Wou'dst thou conspire with *Cæsar*, to betray me,
As thou wert none of mine ? I'll force thee to't,

And

And not be sent by him,

But bring my self my Soul to *Antony*.

Take hence; the work is done.

[Turns aside, and then
shows her Arm bloody.]

Scrap. within. Break ope the door,

And guard the Traitor well.

Char. The next is ours.

Irás. Now, *Charmion*, to be worthy

Of our great Queen and Mistress.

[They apply the Aspioks.]

Cleop. Already, Death, I feel thee in my Veins;

I go with such a will to find my Lord,

That we shall quickly meet.

A heavy numness creeps through every limb,

And now 'tis at my head: my eye-lids fall,

And my dear Love is vanish'd in a mist.

Where shall I find him, where? O turn me to him,

And lay me on his breast. ——— *Cæsar*, thy worst;

Now part us, if thou canst. (*Dies.*) *Irás* sinks down at her feet,
and dies; *Charmion* stands behind her Chair, as dressing her head.

Enter Serapion, two Priests, Alexas bound, Egyptians.

2. *Priests.* Behold, *Serapion*, what havock Death has made!

Scrap. 'Twas what I fear'd.

Charmion, is this well done?

Char. Yes, 'tis well done, and like a Queen, the last

Of her great Race: I follow her.

(Sinks down; Dies.)

Alexas. 'Tis true,

She has done well: much better thus to die,

Than live to make a Holy-day in *Rome*.

Scrap. See, see how the Lovers sit in State together,

As they were giving Laws to half Mankind.

Th' impression of a smile left in her face,

Shows she dy'd pleas'd with him for whom she liv'd,

And went to charm him in another World.

Cæsar's just entring; grief has now no leisure.

Secure that Villain, as our pledge of safety

To grace th' Imperial Triumph. Sleep, blest Pair,

Secure from humane chance, long Ages out,

While all the Storms of Fate fly o'er your Tomb;

And Fame, to late Posterity, shall tell,

No Lovers liv'd so great, or dy'd so well.

Epilogue.

POets, like Disputants, when Reasons fail,
Have one sure Refuge left; and that's to rail.
Fop, Coxcomb, Fool, are thunder'd through the Pit;
And this is all their Equipage of Wit,
We wonder how the Devil this diff'rence grows,
Betwixt our Fools in Verse, and yours in Prose:
For, 'Faith, the quarrel rightly understood,
'Tis Civil War with their own Flesh and Blood.
The thread-bare Author hates the gawdy Coat;
And swears at the Guilt Coach, but swears a foot:
For 'tis observ'd of every Scribling Man,
He grows a Fop as fast as e'er he can;
Prunes up, and asks his Oracle the Glass,
If Pink or Purple best become his face.
For our poor Wretch, he neither rails nor prays;
Nor likes your Wit just as you like his Plays;
He has not yet so much of Mr. Bays.
He does his best; and, if he cannot please,
Wou'd quietly sue out his Writ of Ease.
Yet, if he might his own Grand Jury call,
By the Fair Sex he begs to stand or fall.
Let Cæsar's Pow'r the Mens ambition move,
But grace You him who lost the World for Love.
Yet if some antiquated Lady say,
The last Age is not Copy'd in his Play;
Heav'n help the Man who for that face must drudge,
Which only has the wrinkles of a Judge.
Let not the Young and Beauteous join with those;
For shou'd you raise such numerous Hosts of Foes,
Young Wits and Sparks he to his aid must call;
'Tis more than one Man's work to please you all.

F I N I S.

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